

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM





Queens Supreme Court



# New York State Unified Court System

## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Report of the Chief Administrator of the Courts  
for the Calendar Year January 1 through December 31, 2022

### Anthony Cannataro

*Acting Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and the State of New York*

### Tamiko Amaker

*Acting Chief Administrative Judge of the State of New York*

#### Associate Judges of the Court of Appeals

Jenny Rivera  
Michael J. Garcia  
Rowan D. Wilson  
Madeline Singas  
Shirley Troutman

#### Presiding Justices of the Appellate Division

Rolando T. Acosta  
*First Department*  
Hector D. LaSalle  
*Second Department*  
Elizabeth A. Garry  
*Third Department*  
Gerald J. Whalen  
*Fourth Department*

#### Deputy Chief Administrative Judges

Tamiko Amaker  
*Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for  
Management Support*  
Edwina G. Richardson-Mendelson  
*Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for  
Justice Initiatives*  
Deborah A. Kaplan  
*Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for the  
New York City Courts*  
Norman St. George  
*Deputy Chief Administrative Judge, Courts  
Outside New York City*

#### New York State Unified Court System

Nancy J. Barry  
*Chief of Operations*  
Justin A. Barry  
*Chief of Administration*  
Anthony R. Perri  
*Acting Counsel*  
  
Administrative Judges  
New York City  
Adam Silvera  
*Civil Matters, First Judicial District*  
Ellen N. Biben  
*Criminal Matters, First Judicial District*  
Lawrence Knipel  
*Civil Matters, Second Judicial District*  
Matthew D'Emic  
*Criminal Matters, Second Judicial District*  
Marguerite A. Grays  
*Civil Matters, Eleventh Judicial District*  
Donna-Marie E. Golia  
*Criminal Matters, Eleventh Judicial District*  
Doris Gonzalez  
*Civil Matters, Twelfth Judicial District*  
Alvin Yearwood  
*Criminal Matters, Twelfth Judicial District*  
Desmond A. Green  
*Civil & Criminal Matters,  
Thirteenth Judicial District*  
Anne-Marie Jolly  
*New York City Family Court*

Tamiko Amaker  
*New York City Criminal Court*  
Carolyn Walker-Diallo  
*New York City Civil Court*

#### Administrative Judges Outside New York City

Gerald W. Connolly  
*Third Judicial District*  
Felix J. Catena  
*Fourth Judicial District*  
James P. Murphy  
*Fifth Judicial District*  
Eugene D. Faughnan  
*Sixth Judicial District*  
William K. Taylor  
*Seventh Judicial District*  
Kevin M. Carter  
*Eighth Judicial District*  
Anne E. Minihan  
*Ninth Judicial District*  
Vito M. DeStefano  
*Tenth Judicial District, Nassau County*  
Andrew A. Crecca  
*Tenth Judicial District, Suffolk County*  
Richard E. Sise  
*Acting Presiding Judge, Court of Claims*  
  
New York State Judicial Institute  
Hon. Kathie E. Davidson  
*Dean*



New US citizen holds an American flag at a Naturalization Ceremony in Fort Edward, Washington County.

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Richmond County Court



## A Message from Acting Chief Administrative Judge

# Tamiko Amaker



New York State's Unified Court System is one of the largest, busiest, most complex court systems in the world, and it faced another year of challenges, transitions and accomplishments in 2022. Beginning in 2020, the pandemic's public health threat to judges, court staff and the public compelled us to modify our operations, adopting a virtual court system for most matters. By 2021, we made the transition to a hybrid court system, substantially relying on virtual proceedings but gradually increasing in-person proceedings while maintaining strict courtroom safety procedures. In 2022, with the pandemic abating, we were able to relax certain safety protocols, restore calendars to pre-pandemic numbers, and substantially increase trial capacity and dispositions.

In the years prior to the pandemic, we made great strides in reducing pending cases and delays in case processing in every court in the State. Because of the pandemic, though, backlogs increased, particularly in our high volume criminal and family courts. The good news is that we made significant progress in the past year in reducing these pandemic backlogs and are committed to reducing them to pre-pandemic levels in the coming year, using tried-and-true case management strategies but also harnessing lessons learned over the past three years.

Continuing to build on our commitment to implement the recommendations of the 2020 Special Adviser's Report on Equal Justice in the Unified Court System, aimed at bringing about meaningful change to policies and practices in order to address racial bias, we have implemented a multilayered, multi-year strategic plan that includes education on implicit bias for jurors, establishment of a zero tolerance policy and disciplinary protocol for bias incidents, and mandatory bias training for judges and court staff.

The court system faced transition in two top leadership positions in 2022 as well. Upon the resignation of Chief Judge Janet DiFiore, Court of Appeals Associate Judge Anthony Cannataro became the Acting Chief Judge. Upon the subsequent retirement of Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence K. Marks, the Acting Chief Judge named me Acting Chief Administrative Judge. I join our entire leadership team in the shared commitment to working with our judges, court staff, and partner agencies to meet the challenge of providing justice services to New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tamiko Amaker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*This 2022 edition of the Annual Report of the Chief Administrator of the Courts has been submitted to the Governor and Legislature in accordance with Section 212 of the Judiciary Law.*



Broome County Court



Court Officers and Judges applaud as Major Harold Francis walks out of Kings County Criminal Courthouse on Wednesday, April 27, 2022. Major Francis started with the courts in June 1990 and has been the Major at Kings Criminal since May of 2019.

## A Commitment to Justice

Seven years ago the court system embarked on a sustained, systemwide campaign to reduce backlogs, improve case processing and deliver the highest quality justice to New Yorkers. The court system introduced systemic reforms, including enhancing training to improve case management skills; overhauling and modernizing case management systems; integrating early presumptive ADR into case processing structure; expanding access to civil legal services for individuals of modest means; and appointing and empowering a strong leadership team of Administrative Judges, Supervising Judges and court managers to maintain the sharp focus on the goal of excellence. The numbers improved dramatically and, until the pandemic interfered, backlogs were cut in half statewide and eliminated in many courts.

When the pandemic struck, the dire threat it posed to public health forced the court system to rework the way it was conducting business overnight, moving in 2020 to a virtual court system for many functions. By 2021, the court system moved to a hybrid system, remaining reliant upon virtual proceedings for many matters but transitioning to in-person court appearances. In 2022, with improving COVID metrics and the ability to relax safety protocols, the court system reinstated its full-scale trial capacity. UCS reaffirmed its commitment to reducing backlogs and delays that had built up during the pandemic. As a result, New York's courts resolved more than 2.1 million cases across the State, delivering justice services to millions of New Yorkers in 2022.

New York's criminal courts conducted over 430,000 arraignments and over 2,100 trials in 2022 with more than half involving felony matters. This represents a 68% increase in trials from the prior year. Overall, dispositions in local criminal courts surpassed 745,000 cases, a 57% increase from 2020. With a concerted effort by our judges and court personnel, we have also made significant progress in resolving older criminal cases. Courts outside of New York City significantly reduced pending misdemeanor caseloads by over 5,500 cases from the prior year. Meanwhile, in 2022, New York City Criminal Court achieved a notable reduction of over 600 misdemeanor cases pending for more than one year — with over 2,700 resolved since the height of the pandemic. With respect to our felony dockets, almost 1,500 fewer cases across the state were over standards and goals at the end of 2022 than were pending at the end of 2021. Furthering the mandates of the 2020 criminal reform legislation, the court system, in the spirit of transparency, has undertaken reporting of additional caseload statistics and created robust, online dashboards and reporting tools on pre-trial release, case types, dispositions and other metrics.



Sixteen children joined new families in St. Lawrence County, including one family who coupled their adoption proceeding with an ancient Native American blanket ceremony.

Addressing the critical issue of criminal matters involving firearms, the courts have worked with criminal justice partners in launching dedicated gun parts that prioritize and expedite gun possession cases. Since late April 2022, more than 2,600 of these cases have been brought to disposition. Indeed, despite the addition of more than 1,700 new gun cases to court calendars, the inventory of gun cases pending in New York City has dropped by approximately 33%. Similarly, as part of a citywide robbery initiative, the Criminal Term of New York County Supreme Court decreased its pending first-degree robbery cases by 10% in just over two months.

A related initiative led by Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Deborah Kaplan has been instrumental in spearheading efforts to resolve the oldest pending cases, using measures such as intensive case conferencing and shortening of adjournment periods to provide progress in the gun and robbery case initiatives. As part of the coordinated push to resolve the oldest pending criminal cases in which defendants are incarcerated, additional judges will be receiving training in implementing these strategies in their own court parts.

On the civil side, disposition of pending matters has increased by 34% since 2020 and by 6% since 2021, with over 877,000 dispositions throughout the state. Almost 8,700 trials were commenced in local civil courts during 2022 — a 44% increase from the prior year.

*In the Seventh Judicial District, Resolving Older Cases, (ROC) is a collaborative effort by judges, clerks, attorneys and staff to focus attention and resources on closely tracking case trends, making data-based adjustments to the allocation of resources, and carefully distributing trial-ready criminal cases, to produce a steady and deliberate reduction in older pending cases.*

*Family Court case resolution trends statewide have improved, with almost 439,000 matters resolved in 2022 and dispositions increasing by 13% since 2021 despite an almost 20% rise in new filings. Family Courts in the Fifth Judicial District, overseen by Administrative Judge James Murphy, reduced pending caseloads by 600 older cases last year and over 1,000 since 2021.*



Lawrence K. Marks, then Chief Administrative Judge, New York State Office of Court Administration and the Co-Chair, National Judicial Task Force to Examine State Courts' Response to Mental Illness, welcomes attendees to the 2022 CCJ/COSCA Mid-Atlantic Region Summit held at the Brooklyn Marriott.

## National Judicial Task Force to Examine State Courts' Response to Mental Illness

The court system is undertaking a focused and robust response to the report published in 2022 by the National Judicial Task Force to Examine State Courts' Response to Mental Illness. This Task Force, sponsored by the National Center for State Courts, was chaired by then-Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence K. Marks. It developed tools, trainings and best practices for state courts to promote systemic change in responses to mental and behavioral health issues when justice-involved individuals come before New York courts.

The sheer number of individuals with unaddressed mental and behavioral health conditions underscores the Task Force's emphasis on collaboration among the criminal justice system, health and treatment providers, community organizations and families to provide early intervention before individuals enter the criminal justice system. Once such individuals are before the courts, the obligation is then to provide effective and appropriate competency procedures and opportunities for diversion.

New York presently has over 300 problem-solving and specialized courts. Of these, 42 are mental health courts that offer eligible individuals an alternative to prosecution along with mental health and substance abuse treatment, as well as assistance with housing, education and job training. The court system has begun a thorough review, guided by the recommendations of the National Task Force's report, to ensure that New York's courts are offering an empathic and effective approach to mental and behavioral health. This review will be led by Administrative Judge Matthew D'Emic of Kings County Supreme Criminal, who has led the Brooklyn Mental Health Court since it was started 20 years ago.



At a hearing at Court of Appeals Hall, the Pandemic Practices Working Group of the Commission to Reimagine the Future of New York Courts heard from multiple individuals who offered insight into practices that worked well and should be retained and those that did not. Left to right: Members Mark Berman, Leanne Lapp, Hon. Raymond Rodriguez, Commission Chair Hank Greenberg, Working Group Chair Hon. Craig Doran, Acting Chief Administrative Judge Tamiko Amaker, and Assistant Deputy Counsel Jessica Cherry.

## Commission to Reimagine the Future of New York's Courts

The Commission to Reimagine the Future of New York's Courts was established in 2020, three months into the pandemic, to examine the enhanced use of technology and online platforms, among other innovations, and make recommendations to improve the delivery and quality of justice services, facilitate access to justice and better equip the New York State Unified Court System to keep pace with society's rapidly evolving changes. It is chaired by former New York State Bar Association President Hank Greenberg of Greenberg Traurig.

The Commission made significant recommendations in 2021 in the areas of e-filing, remote court operations, best practices for remote hearings and trials, and enhanced efficiency and integration of e-filing through the appellate process. In 2022, an offshoot of the Commission, the Pandemic Practices Working Group, was created to examine the court system's response to Covid-19, consider post-pandemic procedures and determine the policies that should be retained in the event that court operations are again interrupted due to an unforeseeable event. The Working Group held well-attended public hearings in Albany, Buffalo and Manhattan and conducted a series of remote listening sessions. It heard testimony that virtual hearings eliminate travel barriers to court attendance and decrease legal expenses, that witnesses often feel safer testifying from the security of their home than in a physical courtroom, and that the "digital divide," – poor or non-existent internet service and the lack of a computer or smart phone – disadvantages certain communities and individuals.

Recommendations growing out of these sessions included bringing greater transparency and consistency to the use of virtual proceedings; improving the functioning of virtual proceedings, including ensuring appropriate public access to virtual proceedings; expanding access to virtual proceedings and other court resources; improving accessibility for people who require accommodations; and improving systems for communicating with and supporting court users, including a new website.

In December, the court system launched a web portal to process requests from the public and press to attend certain proceedings virtually in Supreme Courts in all 62 counties.

For more information, visit: <https://portal.nycourts.gov/virtual-appearance-view-request/>



The virtual jury selection pilot initiative launched in July in Manhattan Supreme Court, where potential jurors appeared via Microsoft Teams for jury selection.

## Virtual Jury Selection

The pandemic presented the court system with both a challenge and an opportunity—an opportunity to further think outside the box and utilize technologies and procedures in a new way. An example of this use of innovation to empower the courts to reimagine the future is the “Virtual Jury Selection” pilot, overseen by Seventh Judicial District Administrative Judge William Taylor with the assistance of the Division of Technology. The first of its kind in the state, and among the first in the nation, it began on July 6th, 2022 when a randomly selected group of Manhattan residents participated in jury orientation and jury selection online through the use of Microsoft Teams. Post-selection surveys indicated that jurors strongly favor virtual orientation and selection over the in-person process.

An amazing 96 percent of potential jurors appeared via Microsoft Teams for jury selection. The virtual selection process, including orientation, took less than four hours to complete and was remarkably smooth and glitch-free.

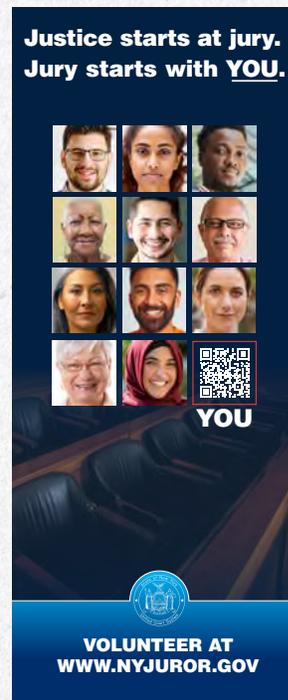
Thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the National Center for State Courts, prospective jurors lacking an internet connection or internet-capable devices were provided with the necessary equipment in advance of their jury service, and IT professionals were on hand to provide technical support in advance of and during jury selection.

The court system looks forward to carefully assessing the results of the pilot, including the demographics of the participants and the extent to which the “digital divide” affects prospective jurors, in order to refine and improve the process in preparation for its expansion, scheduled to begin in 2023 in Suffolk County.



## Statewide Jury Response Improvement Project

Jury service is more than an obligation, more than a civic duty. It is the shared, and most direct way, to ensure that the voice of the community is heard in matters of legal importance in the lives of their neighbors.



In July, the courts kicked off the “Statewide Jury Response Improvement Project,” designed to address a pandemic related decline in juror qualification and juror response rates. Working with a number of Jury Commissioners and representatives of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the Jury Support Office is committed to recommending and implementing operational, technology, training and outreach initiatives to help increase jury participation and representativeness across the state. The Jury

Support Office is working with the Division of Technology to pinpoint neighborhoods where response rates are particularly low and to provide that information to local Commissioner of Juror offices.



Left to right: DoTCR System Engineers I Markenzi Sainvilus and Nathan Cadoret and System Engineer II Brandon Koch at DoTCR facility.

## Leveraging Technology

The Division of Technology and Court Research (DoTCR) provides information processing and technology services for New York's Court System. DoTCR is critical to the establishment of the virtual model that permitted the court system to function and provide vital services to New Yorkers.

DoTCR is involved in every facet of court operations. Among the Division's contributions in 2022:

- ✔ Jury technology enhancements.
- ✔ "Cashiering" in the Third, Fourth, Ninth and 10th Judicial Districts enable online payments of fines and fees.
- ✔ Creation and updates of dashboards which contain important case-related data and are available to the public.
- ✔ Dashboard training for hundreds of judges and court staff for the more efficient management of pending cases.
- ✔ Development of an "inmate production reporting system" to assist in the management of inmates being brought to court.
- ✔ Expansion of the "NYBench" web application which allows judges to securely view case highlights and associated documents in a custom-built interface.



System Engineer II Brandon Koch

## e-Filing

Nearly five million cases have been e-filed in the quarter century since the Unified Court System began implementing “NYSCEF,” the New York Courts Electronic Filing System, and more than 60 million documents have been e-filed. E-filing grew dramatically during the pandemic, with more cases e-filed in the last three years (2.5 million) than in the prior 20 years (2.4 million). Nearly half of the 61,287,699 documents uploaded since the inception of NYSEF have been filed in the last three years.



*Since the introduction of E-filing in New York in 1999, more than **4.9 million cases** have been e-filed, and **61 million documents** have been uploaded, half of them in the last three years as the pandemic unfolded.*

*Source: Division of Technology and Court Research*

Currently, e-filing is in use in: Supreme Court, Civil Term, in 61 of New York’s 62 counties; Surrogate’s Court in all 62 counties; all four departments of the Appellate Division; the Court of Claims; New York City Civil Court (only for no-fault claims now but plans are under way to expand to

additional case types); Housing Court throughout New York City; and the Red Hook Community Justice Center. In August 2022, a pilot program introduced consensual e-filing in Family Courts in Manhattan and Staten Island, and in Fulton, Saratoga and Suffolk counties. In the courts where the NYSCEF system is fully functional, the 24-plus year “experiment” has proven extremely successful.

There has been a significant increase in the utilization of the “Virtual Evidence Courtroom” platform (VEC) which allows participants in a conference, hearing or trial to send evidence to the court remotely via NYSCEF. A newer stand-alone version, VEC2, will soon be available for those courts not yet authorized to e-file.

In those regions where NYSCEF is not available, the Electronic Document Delivery System, EDDS, is widely used. EDDS, developed in response to the pandemic to transmit digitized documents to courts around the state, is available and utilized in over 300 individual courts. Additionally, Town and Village Courts have commenced a pilot program which uses EDDS for the delivery of documents and then utilizes NYSCEF to maintain the official court record.

## Alternative Dispute Resolution

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) enables litigants to resolve their disputes using resolution strategies such as mediation, arbitration, neutral evaluation, restorative justice, summary jury trials, special masters and settlement conferences. Each county in New York State offers ADR options in its courts and communities.

Four years ago, the court system implemented the Presumptive Alternative Dispute Resolution Initiative in which most civil cases are referred to ADR for an early opportunity to resolve the dispute without litigation. With the aim of transforming our culture from one of “litigate first” to “mediate first,” the Presumptive ADR Initiative enhances the quality of justice, reduces costs and backlogs, and frees up resources to allow courts to focus on matters requiring more intense judicial intervention.



Over 500 judges and court staff have been trained in mediation and other ADR services, and over 1,000 mediators and neutral evaluators have joined trial court rosters across the State.

Under two Administrative Orders scheduled to take effect as of January 2023, all Family Court and Matrimonial Part mediators are required to take four hours of training on Screening for Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and two hours of continuing education on IPV every two years. Additionally, all ADR neutrals who serve the courts must complete at least two hours of anti-bias training every two years.

## Online Dispute Resolution

Manhattan’s Civil Court has introduced an online dispute resolution pilot program for eligible small claims matters. Funded by the State Justice Institute and AAA-ICDR Foundation, the new initiative is among the court system’s statewide efforts to expand the use both of alternative dispute resolution and online technology to better meet the justice needs of New Yorkers amid the pandemic and beyond. The Manhattan pilot is designed to assist unrepresented parties in managing and resolving matters involving disputes related to the purchase or sale of goods or services, with a monetary limit up to \$10,000.



Somaia Sharif Zada was an attorney in Afghanistan. She is now working as a Court Analyst in Albany Supreme and County Court.

### Training

The Statewide ADR Office partners with the NYS Judicial Institute, judicial leaders, regional and local ADR staff, bar groups, dispute resolution groups, Community Dispute Resolution Centers, federal court ADR program directors, law schools and other stakeholders to train judicial and non-judicial court staff and diverse neutrals.

### Trial Court Support

During 2022, the court system reconstituted the Office of Trial Court Support, which provides operational expertise and guidance to court staff to facilitate the effective, efficient, and consistent operations of New York State's trial courts. The Office of Trial Court Support assists court managers and staff, District Executives, Administrative Judges and OCA units with analyzing operational issues and problem solving; implementing new legislation and court policies; refining and standardizing court procedures; recommending best practices; conducting



local, regional, or statewide training; and developing instructional materials and court forms. The goal is to facilitate collaboration, seek feedback and establish consensus in our efforts to promote best practices and standardization and to modernize our approach to court operations.

### Judges for Career Opportunities for Refugees (J-COR)

The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan following the United States' withdrawal in 2021 displaced hundreds of women judges and lawyers, many of whom are now living under the threat of violence and death for their official actions in sentencing men to prison for the assault, kidnapping, rape and murder of Afghan women and girls or for ruling against men in divorce and custody cases.

Spurred by the disturbing news reports about the threats these women face, including the murder of two Afghan women judges in 2021, Court of Appeals Associate Judge Madeline Singas suggested reaching out to the National Center for State Courts and the Conference of Chief Justices to discuss what our nation's judicial leaders could do to help and assist these women. That effort led to last November's unanimous Resolution, adopted by the Chief Justice of every State, Commonwealth and Territory in the United States, urging, among other measures, that state court systems work with the National Center for State Courts to support the resettlement of Afghan women judges and justice system refugees.

In March, the Chief Judge announced a new program to provide career placement opportunities in the New York State Unified Court System for Afghan refugees with law-related experience or interest. Under the "J-COR Program," eligible Afghan refugees will be placed in full-time, paid "analyst" positions for a 12-month period.

To qualify for these positions, applicants must be: proficient in English; have relocated to the United States from Afghanistan in 2021 or 2022; possess the requisite immigration status to work in the U.S.; and have relevant experience in the legal profession.



IN GOD WE TRUST

Warren County Supreme Court



Tanya Brown, Court Assistant, Elmira City Court



The prestigious Bernard Botein Medals were presented to nonjudicial court employees within the Appellate Division, First Department, for outstanding contributions to the administration of justice. Left to right: Nigel Cameron, network systems engineer, Office of Court Administration; Dennis Fernandez, court aide, Surrogate's Court, New York County; Presiding Justice Rolando T. Acosta; Sky Peña-Davis, regional project manager, Office for Justice Initiatives Division of Policy & Planning; Sheila S. Boston, past-president of the NYC Bar Association; and Jessica Negron, associate court clerk, Bronx Supreme Court, Criminal Term.

## Rebuilding the Workforce

In the aftermath of the pandemic, the court system has struggled to restore staffing levels to pre-pandemic operational capacity. The court system undertook a vigorous recruitment and hiring campaign, but its gains were offset by an unprecedented rate of attrition. Whether attributable to pandemic-related resignations, an aging workforce, a competitive job market, or a combination of factors, the court system has faced significant challenges in the recruitment, hiring and retention of nonjudicial personnel in virtually all positions and classifications.

Security staffing declined by 10% in the past two years. Attrition in clerk titles significantly impacts the ability to execute orders and directions of judges. Lack of court interpreters affects the ability of people who primarily speak languages other than English to clearly understand proceedings and instructions. Insufficient numbers of court reporters limit the court system's ability to obtain, and make available, an accurate record of court proceedings. Competition from private industry and other government agencies has cost the court system a number of professionals in the Division of Technology. These staff shortages have resulted in case backlogs and delayed hearings and trials. Even the most advanced case processing strategies cannot compensate for inadequate staffing levels. With the assistance of our partners in government, the court system is committed to restoring its workforce to pre-pandemic levels in all titles in 2023.

### COVID-19 and Workplace Safety

As COVID-19 retreats from a full-blown pandemic to an endemic disease, the court system has continually modified safety policies and procedures. During 2022, the court system eliminated temperature checks and mandatory masking (with the exception of individuals returning from a recent COVID-19 infection or having close contact with an infected person).

In 2022, the UCS continued its two highly successful COVID-19 prevention strategies - a mandatory vaccination program and mandatory testing program for those judges and employees given medical or religious exemptions - which resulted in a 95% vaccination rate for those working in the court system. In February 2023, following the federal government's announcement that the COVID-19 national emergency was ending, the latest guidance on infection- and vaccine-induced immunity and the widespread availability of effective treatments and prevention tools, the UCS lifted both of these programs.



Hon. John T. Ellis standing outside his Supreme Court chambers in Tupper Lake, Franklin County.



On May 25, 2022, the Appellate Term, Second Department, for the first time, heard arguments on appeals before a bench comprised of all women of color. Left to right: Associate Justice Wavny Toussaint, Court Officer Ronald Jones, Justice Michelle Weston and Justice Chereé A. Buggs prepare to take the bench for this historic event.

## Equal Justice in the Courts

In 2020, the court system tapped attorney Jeh Johnson as Special Adviser on Equal Justice in the Courts to coordinate a comprehensive, independent review of the court system to help identify and eliminate any and all forms of racism, bias and disparate treatment of court staff and court users. Secretary Johnson—a partner at Paul, Weiss and former U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security—issued a thorough report, with a series of recommendations. The Chief Judge then named Hon. Edwina G. Richardson-Mendelson, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives, to lead the courts’ day-to-day efforts to implement the Equal Justice recommendations.

Fully endorsing the report, the court system has implemented a multi-layered, multi-year strategic plan to oversee the implementation of these recommendations. Notable advancements include:

- ✔ Establishment of a Zero Tolerance Policy on bias incidents.
- ✔ Statewide rollout of a juror orientation video on implicit bias.
- ✔ Creation and distribution of Part 1 of Mandatory Bias training for judges and nonjudicial staff.
- ✔ Creation of local Equal Justice in the Courts Committees throughout the State.
- ✔ Implementation of community-based events and programs to enhance the trust between court officers, litigants, and communities of color.

In May, the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts recognized Judge Richardson-Mendelson with the “2022 Equity Award” in recognition of the work to implement Secretary Johnson’s recommendations for a fair and inclusive court system that provides equal access and opportunity to all.

Over the next year, the UCS will continue to develop its recorded and live bias education programming and expand localized training and response efforts statewide through the work of local Equal Justice in the Courts Committees.

*“Rooting out bias and discrimination and implementing necessary cultural change is a challenging responsibility. There are moments where this work can be daunting and painful, but I am encouraged and sustained by the commitment and dedication which underscores this endeavor.”*

**—Edwina Richardson-Mendelson**  
Deputy Chief Administrative Judge



The Hon. Tamiko Amaker, Acting Chief Administrative Judge, was honored in October for her efforts by the NYC Criminal Court Equal Justice Committee. Here, Judge Raja Rajeswari (left), chair of the Committee, presents the award as Judge Amaker (center) gets a congratulatory hug from Regan Williams, Deputy Chief Clerk.

## Equal Justice in the Courts Committees

Reform does not occur without a total commitment from the top, and without total buy-in from every level. The tone and direction must come from the highest echelon of any organization to be successful, but implementation comes from every corner of every courthouse.

To that end, Equal Justice Committees in each Judicial District—panels that understand local dynamics, history, regional politics and history—function as something of a cabinet. If the court system has the big picture, the Equal Justice Committees bring the local perspective. These Committees are staffed by judges and professional court staff, including clerks, court officers, analysts, court attorneys, interpreters, court reporters and more. Some Equal Justice Committees also include representatives from local bar associations, community organizations, legal service providers, academic community members and other members of the public. The Committees enable the court system to give a voice to all who use our courts.



Judge William K. Taylor  
of the Seventh JD

The Seventh Judicial District introduced its “Judicial Observation Project,” in which five volunteer judges have agreed to have trained observers present in their courtrooms for the purpose of identifying occurrences of implicit bias. The goal of this remarkable project, which to our knowledge is the first of its kind in the nation, is to share and discuss the observers’ findings, in a constructive manner, with the participat-

ing judges, staff and stakeholders, so that all of the participants can better understand how systemic and implicit bias manifests itself in the justice system and then use that knowledge and awareness to become better judges, lawyers and professionals. The observers in this project, themselves volunteers, are sophisticated professionals carefully drawn from a diverse cross-section of the community. They received four weeks of extensive implicit bias training, and have already sat in on dozens of courtroom sessions.

*“Our equal justice work will transform our institutional culture, and it intersects with other ongoing reform efforts to eradicate all forms of bias and discrimination, including age, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, national origin, disability, marital status, socioeconomic status, and more. I’m excited about what we are doing in the New York State courts, aren’t you?”*

—Edwina Richardson-Mendelson  
Deputy Chief Administrative Judge

## Office of Diversity and Inclusion

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI), provides resources to judicial and nonjudicial personnel on diversity-related matters, and identifies and develops practical mechanisms through which the court system attempts to ensure a diverse workforce and bias-free work environment. ODI works to provide an atmosphere that values differences in nationality, ethnicity, race, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age, religion, or disability. In pursuing this objective, ODI regularly works with other UCS offices and commissions including the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission, the Richard C. Failla LGBTQ Commission, the Inspector General's Bias Unit and the New York State Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts.



During 2022, ODI continued its efforts in many areas, including:



- ✔ Hosting the UCS' Second Diversity Summit, an annual forum to educate and inform court employees on topics of diversity, equity and inclusion. Nearly 800 judges and nonjudicial staff attended the virtual program held in April. The theme for the 2022 Summit – “Words Matter: Language as a Tool to Break Down Barriers and Build Bridges” – explored the power of words to affect how we act and how others react. The summit featured dynamic keynote speaker Dr. Tyrone Holmes, an educator, consultant and author, who provided practical advice on connecting with others in a positive way despite our differences. Following the keynote address, there were three additional presentations on Inclusive Language for Disabilities, Equal Justice through Language Access and Cultural Humility, and LGBTQ Identity and Pronouns.
- ✔ Sponsoring cultural theme-month programming to enhance awareness of and respect for the traditions of all. Programs in 2022 included celebrations of Black History; Women's History; Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage; LGBTQ Pride; Hispanic Heritage; Disability Awareness; and Native American Heritage.
- ✔ Providing training programs for court personnel, including presentations to new recruits at the Court Officers Academy, during new employee orientation, at association meetings for Court Clerks, and Professional Development seminars.

## Mosaic

- ✔ Publishing a UCS-wide newsletter, Mosaic, as a tool for building understanding and appreciation of the need for diversity within the court system, while highlighting progress and benchmarks in these areas.

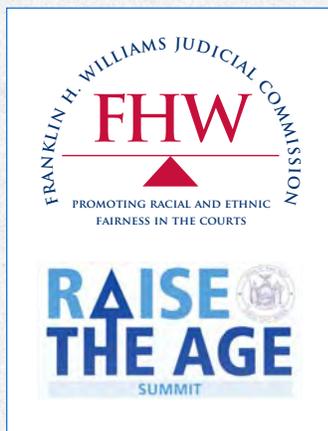
## DIVERSITY Dialogues

- ✔ Expanding ODI's monthly series of “Diversity Dialogue” podcast interviews in which employees of various backgrounds discussed their path, their career and the importance of maintaining an inclusive workforce.
- ✔ Partnering with Equal Justice in the Courts Committees in judicial districts around the State on diversity-related initiatives and community-based events.
- ✔ Collaborating with the National Center for State Courts as part of a newly formed consortium of DEI professionals from state courts throughout the country.
- ✔ Networking with leaders of fraternal and affinity organizations through monthly updates and, in December 2022, at the first in-person meeting with these Employee Resource Groups since the Covid pandemic. The December meeting was an opportunity to reconnect and exchange updates among the various groups to foster a diverse, inclusive and supportive workplace for all court employees. Capt. Vincent Sinclair presented on the Court Officers Academy Community Outreach and Engagement Initiative.



Franklin H. Williams Commission Co-Chairs Judge Richard Rivera and Justice Troy Webber

## Franklin H. Williams Commission



### Report on Family Court

The Commission published a report of policy recommendations for advancing equal justice within the New York Family Courts. These recommendations were based on extensive research and collaboration with key stakeholders across the judicial spectrum — both within the court system as well as external policy experts. This report is meant to draw attention to the pressing issues facing New York City Family Court and to provide potential solutions.

### Symposia

In 2022, the Commission hosted three full-day symposia, including: *Buffalo Rising: Remembering the Past to Build a Stronger Community* held at the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site; a *Raise the Age Summit* hosted at Syracuse University College of Law; and our annual *Juneteenth Symposium on Race* held at the Judicial Institute in White Plains. The Commission's symposia brought together judges, professors and practicing attorneys to discuss issues of racism and bias in the court system, identify solutions for eliminating systemic racism through the law, and to address the impact of the Raise the Age legislation on our courts, youth, and community.

### Diverse Pipeline Programs to the Law and Judiciary

Expanding the pipeline of diverse talent in the legal system and judiciary is a cornerstone of the Williams Commission's strategic plan. The Williams Commission has a holistic approach that includes targeted initiatives for current law students, colleges, high schools and even middle schools to ameliorate the historical underrepresentation of minorities in the legal profession.

Notable achievements include: the Commission's Legal Fellows program offered to recent law school graduates, legal internships for current law students and a newly expanded undergraduate internship. The Commission has also collaborated with the Appellate Division, First and Second Departments, for a *Preparing for the Character and Fitness Process (Early)* program that guided law students through the application process for admission to the bar. In an effort to increase diversity in the judiciary, the Williams Commission implemented a Judicial Mentor Program, which provides mentors for attorneys interested in becoming judges through the appointment or electoral process.



Attorney Judith Aarons, left, takes photo of Attorney Evette Ennis before they were sworn in as Special Masters at a ceremony hosted by the Franklin H. Williams Commission and the New York County Lawyers Association in the rotunda at New York County Supreme Court on Tuesday, March 22, 2022.

### Community Engagement and Awareness

The Williams Commission regularly holds programs to engage communities across the state. One notable example was *Power of Our Voices – Bridging the Gap Between the Courts and Community*. The program helped to demystify the courts and educate the community about available resources.

### Educational Curriculum

The Williams Commission has partnered with PBS's Buffalo affiliate, WNED, to create a cutting-edge civil rights and civics curriculum for middle school and high school students. This includes an Emmy-nominated documentary of Ambassador Franklin H. Williams' life, entitled *A Bridge to Justice*. The Commission has hosted film screenings and discussions of pathways to the law for diverse communities of students across the state.

### Collaboration Across Unified Court System

The Commission, seeking to increase racial and ethnic group representation in all levels of the court system, has developed a Professional Development Academy, hosted in partnership with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the Office of Human Resources of the Unified Court System. The two-day Academy has been hosted in White Plains and Binghamton for the Sixth, Ninth and Twelfth Judicial Districts, and will be replicated throughout New York State. This process involves close partnerships with stakeholders in various Judicial Districts and a customized experience based on the unique needs of the employees in that district. Participation in the Academy program is encouraged and supported by senior leadership in the New York Courts.

For more information, visit: <http://ww2.nycourts.gov/ip/ethnic-fairness/index.shtml>



*In November, Mary Lynn Nicolas-Brewster, Executive Director of the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission, explained the important work of the Commission to host David Lombardo of Capitol Pressroom.*

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/4mvGG1dXrSkAuZw4vXUpG-G?si=8RtY33k2RGWLd7iqwyJFcg>



On June 13, 2022, then Chief Judge DiFiore joined the recipients of the 2022 Women's History Recognition Awards, given by the Gender Fairness Committee of the New York County Supreme Court, Civil Term. The awardees are, left to right, Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin, Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department (retired); Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick, Senior Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals (retired); and Hon. Angela M. Mazzarelli, Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department.

## NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts

The Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts works to secure equal justice, equal treatment and equal opportunity in the courts. The Committee is chaired by the Honorable Betty Weinberg Ellerin, retired Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division First Department and a pioneer in breaking judicial leadership barriers.

Working within the New York State Unified Court System, the Committee addresses a variety of concerns of women litigants, attorneys and court employees. In recent years, it has acted on behalf of constituencies that range from domestic violence and human trafficking victims to immigrant women, and from sexually harassed employees to self-represented matrimonial litigants. The committee was instrumental in the creation of a statewide network of human trafficking intervention courts as well as domestic violence courts statewide.

## Gender Fairness Committees

As part of the Unified Court System's continuing commitment to gender equity, 24 local gender bias and gender fairness committees around the state address gender fairness issues, conducting public awareness and continuing legal education programs on workplace issues, health and well-being and community outreach. Despite the pandemic, the local committees were active and vibrant during 2022, presenting cutting-edge programs on topics ranging from human trafficking to reproductive coercion.

For more information visit:

<http://ww2.nycourts.gov/ip/womeninthecourts/index.shtml>



*In March 2022, the Third Judicial District coordinated a Women in Careers Day at the Albany Leadership School. The event was part of a continuing effort by the Third JD to spotlight careers in the courts and encourage people of all backgrounds to consider employment opportunities within the Unified Court System. From left to right, Amelia Lepore Sessions, Deputy District Executive for the 3rd JD; Hon. Sherri Brooks-Morton, Albany County Family Court; Pershia Wilkins, Associate Director of the Admissions Office for Albany Law School and Tina Sodhi, Alternate Public Defender.*

**PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE COURTS**

**THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL** is responsible for investigating allegations of misconduct, fraud, criminal activity or conflicts of interest by court employees or persons or corporations doing business with the court system.

**WHO CAN FILE A COMPLAINT?** Judicial and non-judicial employees of the Unified Court System, court users and members of the public can file a complaint.

**TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION OR FILE A COMPLAINT YOU MAY CONTACT**  
**OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
 Office of Court Administration  
 25 Beaver Street  
 New York, New York 10004  
 PHONE: (646) 386-3000 TOLL-FREE: 1-866-656-1433  
 EMAIL: [ig@nycourts.gov](mailto:ig@nycourts.gov)

**YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO A BIAS-FREE COURTHOUSE**

without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, disability, religion, creed, domestic violence status, or genetic status. Further, all forms of sexual harassment are prohibited. The Unified Court System also provides equal access, fair treatment, and quality of service to all persons who use or do business in the courts and court-related agencies. The Unified Court System is further committed to ensuring non-discriminatory hiring policies and fair employment practices.

**THE OFFICE OF THE MANAGING INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR BIAS MATTERS** is within the Office of the Inspector General and is responsible for enforcing the Unified Court System's commitment to the public and within the court system. The Office also conducts confidential investigations in connection with allegations of discrimination and bias that affect the conditions and terms of employment or that relate to services provided by court system personnel.

**WHO CAN FILE A COMPLAINT?** Judicial and non-judicial employees of the Unified Court System, court users and members of the public can file a complaint regarding discrimination or bias.

**THE INVESTIGATIVE PROCESS** Upon receiving a complaint, the Office will conduct a confidential investigation. If substantiated, corrective action will be taken including, but not limited to, employee re-training, suspension, termination, or referral to appropriate outside agencies.

**TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION OR FILE A COMPLAINT YOU MAY CONTACT**  
**OFFICE OF THE MANAGING INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR BIAS MATTERS**  
 Office of Court Administration  
 25 Beaver Street  
 New York, New York 10004  
 PHONE: (646) 386-3007 TOLL-FREE: 1-877-2-ENO-BIAS  
 EMAIL: [omb@nycourts.gov](mailto:omb@nycourts.gov)



Acting Supreme Court Justice Howard Sturim in Nassau County Court with Barney, his diabetic alert dog.

## Managing Inspector General for Bias Matters

The Inspector General's Office is responsible for the investigation and elimination of infractions of disciplinary standards, criminal activities, conflicts of interest, misconduct, misfeasance and incompetence on the part of nonjudicial employees of the UCS, and persons or corporations doing business with the UCS, with respect to their dealings with the courts.

A specialized unit within the office of the Inspector General—the Office of the Managing Inspector General for Bias Matters— investigates allegations of bias based upon race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, domestic violence status, prior criminal record, age, marital status, disability, national origin or religion that affect the workplace or the terms and conditions of employment of UCS personnel.

## Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy

The Unified Court System's anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policy is applicable to all non-judicial and judicial personnel prohibiting conduct and communications, including electronic and social media communications, that demean, disparage or harass others based on race, sex, gender identity and other personal attributes. The Court System has Zero Tolerance for bias, harassment and discrimination and will take action cognizant of the ongoing and disproportionately negative impact those behaviors have on the court system's mission.

For more information, visit: <https://www.nycourts.gov/whatsnew/pdf/UCS-AntiDiscrim-AntiHarass.pdf>

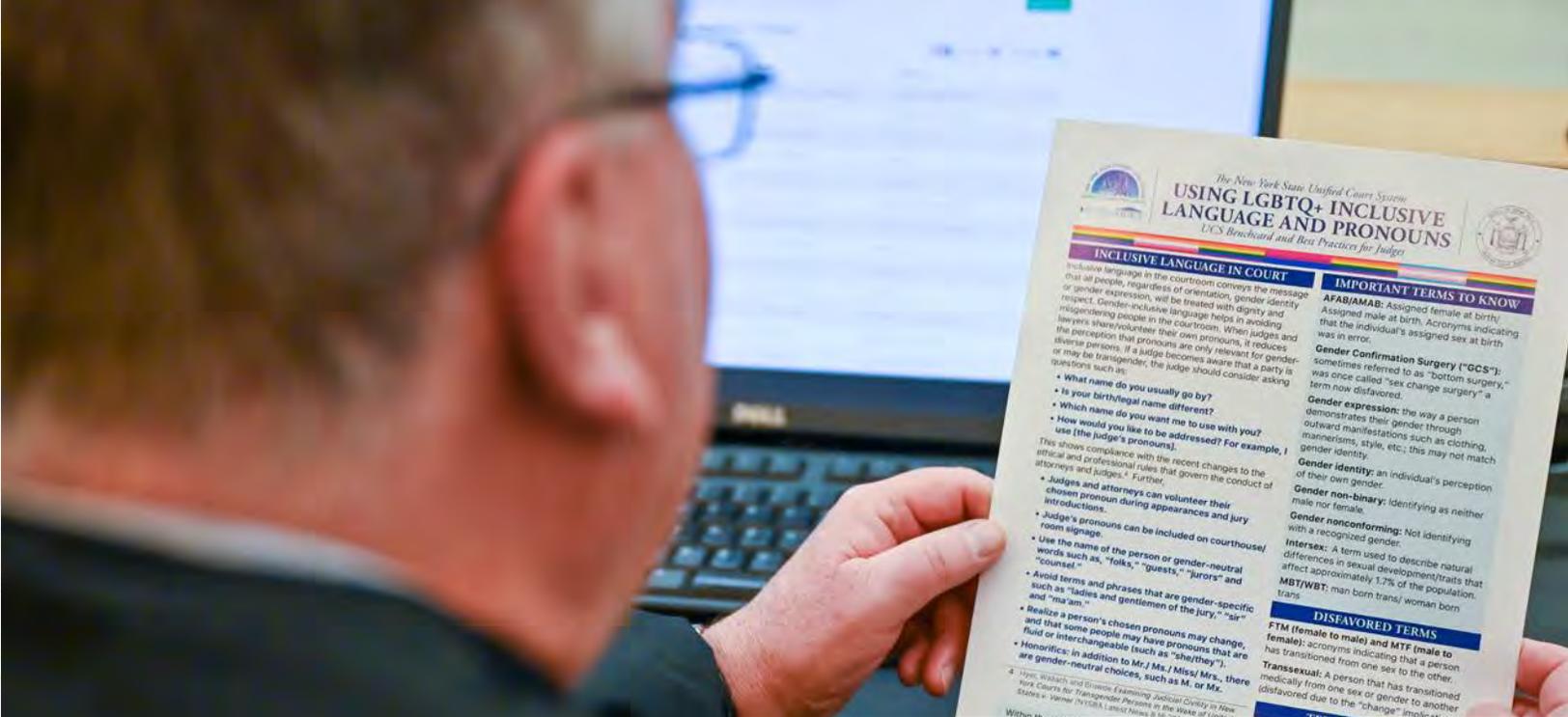
## Americans with Disabilities Act

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal law prohibiting discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. As defined by the statute, a person with a disability is one who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity. The Unified Court System is committed to fully complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act by providing services, programs and activities in a way that assures equal and full accessibility for all court users. The court system developed and implemented a revised procedure for receiving and processing requests for reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, enabling a more responsive, efficient, and streamlined process for providing judicial and administrative accommodations. In 2022, the court system expanded the new online request for accommodation pilot form to all NYC trial courts. District Executives and NYC Chief Clerks are entrusted with assisting litigants, jurors, attorneys, and other court users in obtaining the accommodations needed to ensure that they can meaningfully participate in the justice system.

For more information, visit: <http://ww2.nycourts.gov/Accessibility/index.shtml>



The portrait of Court of Appeals Judge Paul Feinman, the first openly gay judge of the high court, was unveiled during a ceremony at Court of Appeals Hall in Albany. Pictured are the late judge's husband, Robert Ostergaard, and then Chief Judge DiFiore.



Administrative Judge Matthew D'Emic, Kings County Supreme Court, Criminal Term, reviewed the LGBTQ Benchmark.

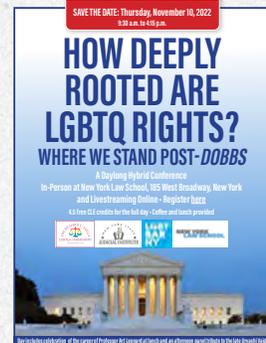
## Richard C. Failla LGBTQ Commission

Bearing the name of a jurist who pioneered advocacy for LGBTQ rights throughout his career, the Richard C. Failla LGBTQ Commission is dedicated to promoting equal participation and access throughout the Unified Court System by all persons regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. In furtherance of that mission, the Commission in 2022:



- ✔ Marched for the first time in the Capital Pride Parade in Albany.
- ✔ Collaborated with the Judicial Institute on two CLE programs, the first covering adoption basics and the second analyzing anti-LGBTQ policies in the United States.
- ✔ Traveled to University at Buffalo Law School, Albany Law School, and Cornell Law School for meetings with LGBTQ students.
- ✔ Gave the first "Judge Paul G. Feinman Award" to Justice Adam Silvera, Administrative Judge, Supreme Court, Civil Term, New York County and later in the year, dedicated the Ceremonial Courtroom at the 60 Centre Street Courthouse to the late Judge Feinman.

- ✔ Provided feedback on a new LGBTQ best practices benchmark, drafted by the Ninth Judicial District Access to Justice Committee LGBTQ Subcommittee and distributed statewide by the Office for Justice Initiatives.
- ✔ Held an in-person conference, "How Deeply Rooted are LGBTQ Rights: Where We Stand Post-*Dobbs*," at New York Law School and helped launch The Arthur Leonard Scholarship for Excellence in Support of the LGBTQ Community.
- ✔ Broadcast the first-ever court system virtual program for Transgender Day of Remembrance, in collaboration with the Pride Alliance and the Appellate Division, First Department Anti-Bias Committee.
- ✔ Expanded Failla Commission staff.



For more information, visit: <http://ww2.nycourts.gov/ip/LGBTQ/index.shtml>



Nassau County Court



In September, Acting Chief Judge Anthony Cannataro presided over the court system's annual statewide public hearing to evaluate the continuing unmet civil legal services needs in New York, with the 2022 hearing focusing on the civil justice crisis arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Access to Justice

With a population of almost 20 million, New York State has a multitude of people with diverse and often complex needs. Each year, thousands of people navigate courts throughout the state without the benefit of legal representation. The Office for Justice Initiatives (OJI) seeks to identify those diverse needs, develop innovative approaches to meeting them, and implement programs and initiatives to best support them. Through partnerships, pro bono programs, self-help services and technological tools, OJI strives to ensure access to justice for all who enter New York State courts.

## Permanent Commission on Access to Justice

The Permanent Commission on Access to Justice continues to study and develop recommendations to improve access to civil legal services for low-income New Yorkers. The Commission supports the Chief Judge's annual statewide hearing to assess the unmet needs for civil legal representation in matters involving the essentials of life. In addition, the Commission holds three annual events: the statewide Civil Legal Aid Technology Conference, the Law School Access to Justice Conference, and the statewide Stakeholders Meeting. The Stakeholders Meeting brings together the diverse stakeholders that compose the local access to justice committees, including judicial leadership, to share knowledge, proven strategies, and best practices for developing and expanding access to justice initiatives. Local access to justice committees hold bi-monthly leadership meetings to highlight emerging issues and successful initiatives. The work of the local access to justice committees has resulted in many court system initiatives including pilot specialized housing parts outside New York City; public access computer terminals located in courthouses and the community; establishment of Legal Hand virtual information centers; and expansion of the Guardian Ad Litem Program outside New York City. The Commission is committed to ensuring meaningful access to justice for all New Yorkers, collaborating on access to justice issues, and expanding pro bono services for unrepresented litigants.

For more information, visit: <https://ww2.nycourts.gov/accesstojusticecommission/index.shtml>

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING** Revised: 9.1.2022  
**THE ACTING CHIEF JUDGE'S 2022 HEARING ON  
CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES IN NEW YORK**

## Judiciary Civil Legal Services

The Judiciary Civil Legal Services (JCLS) Division of the Office for Justice Initiatives is responsible for programmatic leadership and oversight of the JCLS program. This past year, the Board awarded over \$95 million to 81 JCLS grantees for the provision of direct civil legal services and access to justice services to address the vital legal needs of low-income New Yorkers in every county of the State. The JCLS Program and funding, as approved by the Legislature, provides low-income New Yorkers with meaningful access to the courts and the legal assistance they need to secure the essentials of life, such as housing, access to healthcare and education, and subsistence income. This crucial initiative benefits hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers each year.

## CourtHelp Website and DIY (Do-It-Yourself) Program



The CourtHelp website provides the public with information about the law. Written in plain language, it also serves as an access point

for DIY Form Programs, the Help Center directory and more. The CourtHelp website is viewed more than 10 million times annually.

## Help Centers



Help Centers are neutral locations for court users to obtain information about the law and court procedures from court staff. These Centers provide forms, referrals and resources, and often

have DIY Form Program terminals available for people to access. Help Centers are operating in many courts in New York City and in 24 counties outside the city. In the first half of 2022, an estimated 107,329 unrepresented court users were assisted by Help Centers throughout the State. In the fall of 2022, the Help Centers expanded their geographic reach to unrepresented court users throughout all 10 counties of the Sixth Judicial District (Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Madison, Otsego, Schuyler, Tioga and Tompkins).

## Guardian Ad Litem Program

The Guardian Ad Litem Program (GAL) recruits and trains a pool of attorneys and non-attorneys to assist judges hearing landlord-tenant proceedings in New York City and Westchester County.

GAL seeks to safeguard the rights and prevent the eviction of tenants unable to advocate for themselves due to a physical or mental impairment, or age. GAL advocacy includes securing needed entitlements or grants to pay for arrears, assisting with re-certification problems or arranging for repairs and heavy-duty cleaning.

In May 2022, the Office for Justice Initiatives convened a statewide Landlord Tenant Working Group with court leaders to address the creation of GAL programs in additional judicial districts.

## Elder Abuse Self-Assessment Tool

The New York State Office for the Aging estimates that 300,000 older New Yorkers are victimized annually. With that alarming estimate in mind, the Office for Justice Initiatives has developed an Elder Abuse Self-Assessment Tool in partnership with the Center for Elder Law and Justice and The Weinberg Center.

## Volunteer Programs

The court system coordinates a host of robust volunteer programs throughout the State for dedicated attorneys and non-attorneys interested in helping unrepresented litigants in the courts, including the New York City Family Court and Civil Court Volunteer Attorney Programs, the Consumer Debt Volunteer Lawyer for the Day Program, the Attorney Emeritus Program, the Uncontested Divorce Volunteer Lawyer Program, the Court Navigator Program and the Foreclosure Volunteer Lawyer for the Day Program.

## Public Access Terminal Court Hubs

Through its computer centers called Public Access Terminal Court Hubs ("PATCH"), the Brownsville Community Justice Center in Brooklyn connects the public to court clerks, so that they can ask questions on housing and family court matters, respond to papers, seek an order of protection, and get helpful information and resources.

## Virtual Court Access Network (VCAN)

Virtual Court Access Networks (VCAN) sites provide remote access to courts in a safe, convenient community location. They help bridge the digital divide by utilizing community-based stations/hubs or rooms in settings such as libraries, houses of worship, community centers and other locations. VCAN sites have proven immensely helpful for court users who:

- ✓ Lack the means of transportation, childcare, computer equipment or internet service to fully participate in court matters.
- ✓ Need help filing paperwork on a pending or new emergency matter
- ✓ Need assistance locating and accessing legal resources or other community services.

**NEED HELP FILING?**

- ✓ Do you need to file a Family Offense petition with Brooklyn Family Court?
- ✓ Do you need to respond to a Kings County Civil/Housing Court notice?
- ✓ Do you need to file a HP action (to obtain repairs) with Kings County Housing Court?

**WE CAN HELP YOU!**  
Visit the Virtual Court Access Network

Brooklyn Family Court Family Offense Petitions can be filed Monday & Tuesday 9:00am - 3:00pm\*

Brooklyn Housing Court actions can be filed Wednesday & Thursday 9:00am - 3:00pm

\*Free counseling advocacy and victim compensation application services are available on site

Red Hook Community Justice Center | 88 Visitation Place Brooklyn, NY 11231 (718) 923-8288

In collaboration with the Center for Court Innovation and the Division of Technology, the Office for Justice Initiatives has launched a VCAN site within the Red Hook Community Justice Center in Brooklyn. There, court users can file emergency petitions with Family Court or respond to a Civil Court Notice or Housing Part matter in New York City.

Outside of New York City, OJI, in collaboration with the Rural Justice Task Force, the Division of Technology, the Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution, the New York State Permanent Commission of Access to Justice and other stakeholders, has identified 17 additional locations for VCAN sites. Services offered at those VCAN sites will be tailored to the unique needs of the community.

*“Access to justice is not simply about the availability of funding for legal services. Instead, we have embedded within our culture a focus of wanting to help those most in need. Given the socio-economic struggles our community experiences daily, we strive to open the gates of justice to all who come before the Court.”*

**—Eighth Judicial District  
Equal Justice Committee**

## Court Navigator Program



Trained volunteer Court Navigators help unrepresented litigants access and complete court forms, provide one-on-one assistance and offer moral support to individuals as they make their way through a very large court system. In several New York City Housing Courts (Bronx, Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens) and in Bronx Civil Court, navigators actually accompany unrepresented litigants in the courtroom and in some instances respond to factual questions from the judge.

The program, which began back in 2014, dovetails beautifully with Secretary Johnson’s recommendation that the court system designate an “individual within each courthouse to welcome litigants and answer basic questions about how to navigate the building and adhere to general procedures and practices.” Although the COVID-19 pandemic forced a hiatus, the Office for Justice Initiatives launched a Virtual Court Navigator Pilot Program staffed by specially trained students from John Jay College’s APPLE Corps program. Court users from nine counties sought assistance for issues such as custody, child support, visitation, divorce, housing, estates, paternity, name change and other issues. The pilot program was a resounding success, and an effort is underway to establish a permanent, statewide hybrid Navigator program incorporating both in-person and virtual assistance.



## Business Council for Access to Justice

The Business Council for Access to Justice was established in 2020 to provide strategic advice and support on critical initiatives, from educating the business sector on the importance of policies supporting equal access to justice, to fostering pro bono service by corporate counsel, to partnering with legal service providers on specific projects designed to close the access-to-justice gap in low-income communities. The Business Council is a diverse group of experienced business leaders whose work serves to complement the efforts of the Permanent Commission on Access to Justice.

In 2022, the Business Council continued its successful pro bono housing initiatives, in partnership with Legal Services NYC and Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, that provide brief advice, limited scope and full representation to low-income tenants facing eviction who otherwise would not have access to legal services.

## New York State Justice Task Force

The Justice Task Force seeks to promote fairness, effectiveness, and efficiency in the criminal justice system; to eradicate harms caused by wrongful convictions; to further public safety; and to recommend judicial and legislative reforms to advance these causes throughout the State of New York. When created by then Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman in 2009, the Justice Task Force was one of the first permanent task forces on wrongful convictions in the United States. Then Chief Judge DiFiore expanded the Task Force's mission to provide broader recommendations for changes to the criminal justice system to improve its fairness and effectiveness.

In 2022, the Justice Task Force addressed "peremptory challenges" to potential jurors—those for which they do not need to articulate a reason for rejecting a particular juror—which had been used by attorneys for generations to exclude African Americans from juries. The U.S. Supreme Court, in *Batson v. Kentucky* (1986), established a constitutional framework to enable courts to assess whether a peremptory challenge is motivated by intentional racial or gender discrimination. However, *Batson* has proven an ineffective vehicle to address "implicit" or "subconscious" racism.

The Justice Task Force proposed a new approach, in which the court would be asked to evaluate: "Whether, in the view of a reasonable person, the race, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, gender identity or expression, religion, religious practice, age, disability, or sexual orientation of a juror was a factor in the exercise of the peremptory challenge."

Remedying the use of peremptory challenges is just one of the many reforms the Justice Task Force has advanced to foster a fair, equitable and bias-free jury system, including: new jury instructions on implicit bias; creation of a uniform questionnaire to guide the court and counsel in probing for potential implicit biases during voir dire; implicit bias training for District Attorneys' Offices, institutional defense providers, and judges and nonjudicial staff; and increased community outreach and public service announcements to encourage jury service



Supervising Judge Shahabuddeen Ally of New York City Civil Court, right, welcomed deaf or hearing impaired interns from the Summer Youth Employment Program to an August 2022 event on careers in the court system. The interns participated in a mock trial with assistance from sign language interpreters.

## Language Access

With over five million people speaking languages other than English in their homes, New York State's diverse population requires a robust language interpreting program to serve court users. The court system has 235 interpreters on staff and provides free interpreting services in over 200 languages. In 2022, interpreters covered over 60,000 appearances in 119 languages and provided, in person or remote, language access to over 220,500 court users.



*Become a Spanish Court Interpreter for the New York State Courts*

Register for the Spanish Court Interpreter Exam by August 4, 2022  
**NYCOURTS.GOV/CAREERS**  
 or Text INTERPRETER to 77222

The exam will be administered statewide September 9 & 10, 2022

- Statewide positions available
- 2020 starting salary from \$57,166 to \$61,466 (based on location)
- Comprehensive health and retirement benefits
- 20 paid vacation days the first year
- 27 paid vacation days by the seventh year
- 13 paid holidays

NEW YORK STATE Unified Court System @nycourts @careersnycourts

The Office of Language Access (OLA) maintains a registry of over 1,500 credentialed per diem interpreters representing more than 200 languages. The per diem registry is an invaluable resource for the courts, enabling OLA staff to provide needed interpreters to cover heavy court calendars, and to offer less frequently requested languages when needed.

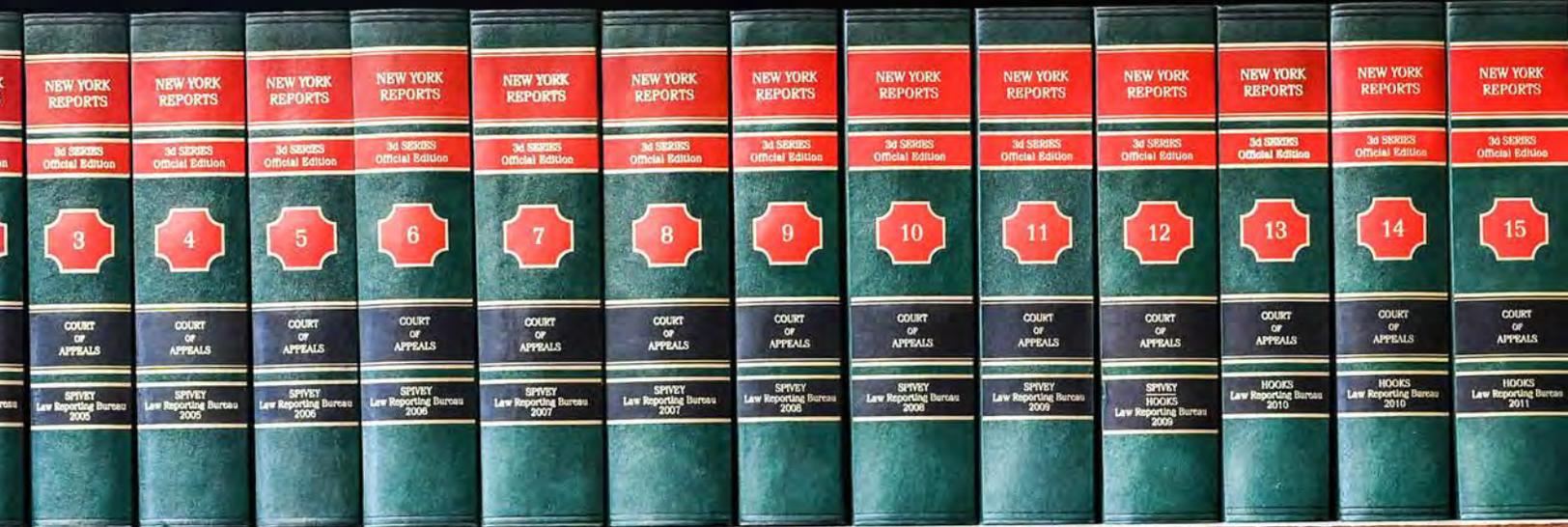
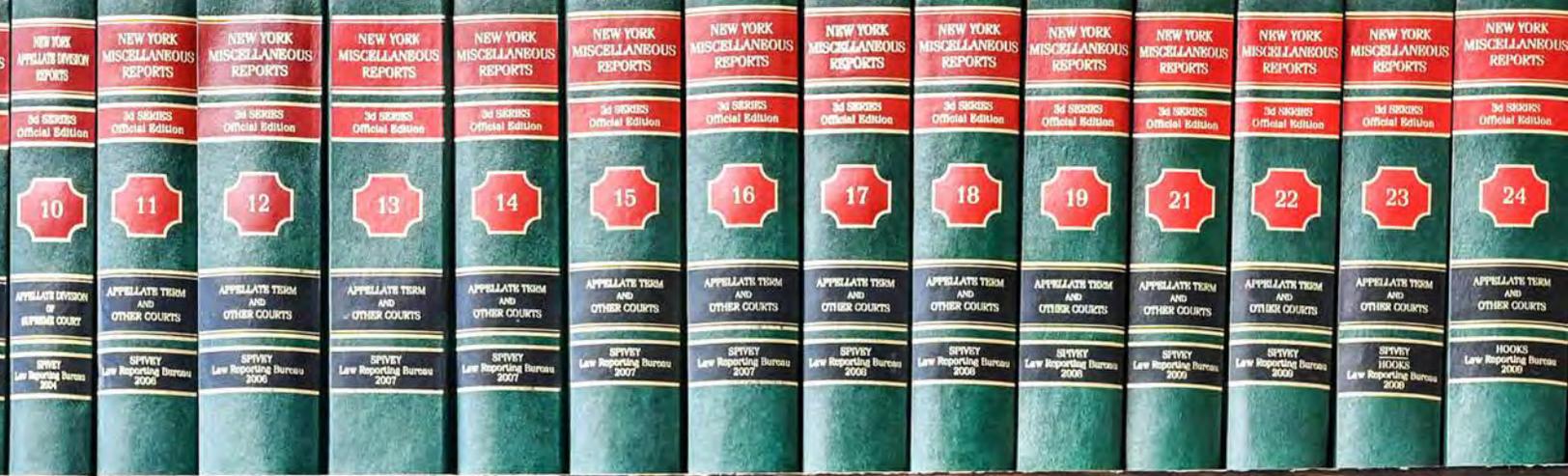
*Since bilingual Orders of Protection were introduced in 2015, 162,027 have been issued in Spanish, Chinese, Arabic and Russian.*

- ✓ Arabic – 5,894
- ✓ Chinese – 6,031
- ✓ Russian – 5,352
- ✓ Spanish – 144,750

At initial points of contact, the courts are equipped with “Language Line,” a telephonic service that provides on demand language access. This service is used in non-courtroom settings to assist with general inquiries, instructions or forms. Language Line is instrumental in reducing wait times, especially when interpreters are actively interpreting in the courtroom.

American Sign Language Video Remote pilot programs for deaf court users are underway in several courts.

In 2015, the court system started a pilot in which the Family Court in New York City, Westchester County and Monroe County issued Spanish/English bilingual Orders of Protection. Since then, the orders have been expanded to three more languages and to the Family Courts statewide and to the Integrated Domestic Violence courts. The orders are available in Spanish, Arabic, Chinese and Russian.



Chemung County Court



Administrative Judge Anne-Marie Jolly, Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals Howard A. Levine (Ret.) and Administrative Judge Kevin Carter discussed the 60th Anniversary of the New York Family Court.

## Family and Society

### 60th Anniversary of New York's Family Court

The court system marked the 60th Anniversary of New York's Family Court in November 2022 with a series of panel presentations on family law issues held at the Court of Appeals. The Anniversary event was co-hosted by Administrative Judge Anne-Marie Jolly of the New York City Family Court and Administrative Judge Kevin Carter of the 8th Judicial District. The expert panelists, including Family Court Judges and advocates, discussed Juvenile Justice, Child Welfare, the Expanding Concept of Family and Racial Equity, and the evolving approaches to these issues through the history of Family Court. Among the presenters was Retired Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals Howard A. Levine, who began his service as a Family Court Judge in 1971.



After a career of “firsts” – first woman Family Court Judge in Ulster County, first woman in the Third Judicial District elected to Supreme Court, first woman from the Third Department promoted to the Appellate Division, first woman Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, Third Department – Justice Karen Peters in March 2022 added another “first” to her biography: First woman judge honored with her portrait hung in the Ulster County Courthouse.

## Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children



The New York State Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children was established in 1988 to improve the lives and life chances of children involved with the New York courts. The Commission is chaired by the Hon. Karen K. Peters, former Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, Third Department, and comprised of judges, lawyers, advocates, physicians, educators and state and local officials.

At its inception, the Commission concentrated its efforts on the youngest children before the courts—securing early intervention, establishing a statewide system of Children’s Centers in the Courts, improving court proceedings, promoting the healthy development of children in foster care and focusing on the needs of infants involved in child welfare proceedings. The Commission’s role has since expanded to include the needs of older children in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, as well as implementing the New York State Court Improvement Project, a federally funded project to assess and improve foster care, termination of parental rights and adoption proceedings.

The ongoing challenge of the pandemic encouraged the Commission to continue producing virtual programming, open to all court users, especially parents, attorneys, youth, advocates, and professionals in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

The Redlich Horwitz Foundation assisted the Commission with a generous grant to support family-centered practices, and the Commission put forth programs that highlighted diversity, equity and inclusion in child welfare and juvenile justice matters, spotlighted the needs of older and special needs youth involved with the courts and underscored the importance of supporting children with incarcerated parents. In June, as part of the court system’s recognition and celebration of Reunification Month, the Commission partnered with the Office for Justice Initiatives Division of Child Welfare and Family Justice to produce and provide training for all Family Court staff statewide on the importance of family preservation and reunification. The Commission is actively engaged in the work of the Partnership for Youth Justice, which is an interbranch collaborative focused on improving outcomes for youth in the justice system.

The Commission dispersed funds to the Third Judicial Department to support the creation of an age-appropriate waiting room in Albany County Family Court for older youth and teens engaging in family court matters. Work on the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention grant for Reducing Risk for Girls in the Juvenile Justice System continued into the contracting phase to begin the creation, refinement and dissemination of evidence-based, gender-responsive, anti-bias training to juvenile justice system staff and leadership across New York State.



The court prepares for an adoption ceremony in St. Lawrence County.

## Children's Centers

To respond to the needs of children who accompany family members or caregivers who come to courthouses for court appearances, the New York State Unified Court System developed the nation's first statewide system of cheerful, welcoming Children's Centers in the courts. The Centers provide a safe, literacy-rich environment and an opportunity for positive interventions in the lives of vulnerable children.



Research shows that many of the children brought to court are five years or younger, poor and not receiving vital services -- including health, educational and nutritional benefits -- to which they and their families are entitled. Centers regularly facilitate connections between families and services such as Head Start, WIC, food stamps, literacy and other community services. The Children's Centers have truly turned a problem into a possibility, with positive outcomes for families.



Judge Paulette M. Kershko at the Warren County Family Court Children's Art Gallery in Lake George.

Following two years of closures due to the pandemic, the Children's Centers began to reopen in 2022. The process has been slow, impacted by a shortage of funds and delays in recruiting and hiring qualified professionals by the agencies that contract to run the Centers. Nevertheless, in 2022 there were 15 Centers in operation in the State, ten of which had just reopened and five of which had remained open through the pandemic. A new site in New York City, the Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin Children's Center, was renovated with funds provided by the New York County District Attorney's Office and is expected to open in 2023.



Books for young readers at the Warren County Family Court Children's Art Gallery in Lake George.

## Child Welfare Court Improvement Project

The Child Welfare Court Improvement Project (CWCIP) is a federally funded initiative that supports the Family Court's mandate to promote the safety, permanence, and well-being of abused and neglected children. In recognition of the integral role courts play in charting the course for children who are the subject of abuse, neglect, foster care, termination of parental rights and adoption proceedings, the project provides resources and technical assistance to promote continuous quality improvement at the intersection of the legal/judicial and child welfare systems. The CWCIP pursued its mission in 2022 through several initiatives:

### Engaging People with Lived Child Welfare Experience Expertise

In furtherance of its commitment to develop partnerships with parents and youth with lived child welfare experience expertise, the CWCIP partnered with the Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children to share pre-recorded panel discussions with parents, youth, and their advocates and facilitate discussion with family court judges and staff in each judicial district. Additionally, training was provided by Joyce MacMillan, a family advocate and founder of JMAC for Families and Lilly Colby, a California based attorney and former foster youth, on strategies for engaging people with lived experience.

### Quality Legal Representation project

In support of the work and recommendations of the Chief Judge's Commission on Parental Representation, the Quality Legal Representation project raises awareness of Office of Indigent Legal Services Standards related to immediate assignment and presumptive entitlement to counsel as well as the benefits of adopting and implementing the model of interdisciplinary representation. In Phase One, the CWCIP partnered with the Unified Court System, the Office of Indigent Legal Services, the Office of Children and Family Services and attorneys for children to develop a virtual four-part training series to ensure child welfare system stakeholders around the state are aware of the benefits of early access and interdisciplinary representation.

### Hearing Quality

In 2022, the CWCIP began planning the first-ever "Reasonable Efforts Judicial Academy" in partnership with the Judicial Institute and Capacity Building Center for Courts and the American Bar Association. The goal of the Academy is to enhance judicial capacity to engage in thorough reasonable efforts inquiry. This strategy will help prevent the unnecessary removal of children from their homes and make sure that those who are removed are returned to their parents or achieve permanence as quickly and safely as possible.

*“There are a variety of problem-solving courts that we have. In New York state, we have your traditional drug court, we have DWI courts, we have veterans treatment courts, we have mental health courts, we have sex trafficking courts, we have a number of courts that meets the needs of each individual that may come into our courtroom that really needs assistance so we kind of cover every population that walks into our court doors.”*

**—Craig Stratton**

Resource Coordinator, Albany Drug Treatment Court



## Problem-Solving Courts and Initiatives

### Emerging Adults Court

While most states set the age of criminal responsibility at 18 years old, research shows the brain does not finish fully maturing until the mid-20s. The 18 to 25-year-old population —“emerging adults”— lack the risk avoidance and impulse control that help to curb criminal behavior in older adults, and emerging adults are incarcerated at double their representation in the adult populace. In response, several jurisdictions in New York have launched programs in criminal courts specifically designed to address the emerging adult population of their local communities.

While each of these programs operates differently to best meet the needs of the young people, each is focused on linking young people with opportunities for social and rehabilitative services, in lieu of traditional court responses such as monetary fines and incarceration. Emerging adult projects include Brooklyn Young Adult Court, New York County Supreme Court Criminal Term Alternatives to Incarceration Part (Emerging Adult Track), New Rochelle City Court Opportunity Youth Part and Mount Vernon City Court Emerging Adult Justice Part.

*The New York State Court System is a national leader in the development of specialized or “problem-solving” courts. Currently, the court system maintains over 300 problem-solving courts. That includes:*

**94 Drug Treatment Courts**

**43 Integrated Domestic Violence Parts**

**39 Mental Health Courts**

**38 Domestic Violence Parts**

**34 Veterans Treatment Courts in 26 counties**

**28 Opioid Courts (with 10 more to open in 2023)**

**19 Family Treatment Courts**

**14 Driving While Intoxicated Treatment Courts**

**12 Human Trafficking Intervention Courts**

*For more information on Problem Solving Courts, visit:*

<https://ww2.nycourts.gov/admin/opp/index.shtml>

## Family Treatment Courts

The court system operates 19 Family Treatment Courts, including the Nassau Family Treatment Court which launched in 2022 and the Rensselaer Family Treatment Court, which received an Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Presentation (OJJDP) grant in October 2022. The Office for Justice Initiatives is supporting and advising on the implementation of the UCS' statewide Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) grant, which is designed to build child welfare/substance use disorder collaboratives within rural communities.

As part of the statewide grant, the Office for Justice Initiatives (OJI) designed and implemented a Child Welfare & Substance Use Disorder monthly virtual series for Family Court Judges and staff as well as Family Court practitioners. OJI is also advising on OJJDP grants for Albany, Nassau, Oneida, Schenectady, Suffolk, Rensselaer, Rockland and Ulster counties.

## Domestic Violence and Integrated Domestic Violence Courts

The court system has long been a national leader in the pursuit of effective approaches to intimate partner violence and now operates 38 Domestic Violence parts and 43 Integrated Domestic Violence parts, work that continued despite the challenges of the pandemic.

Each year, the Office of Policy and Planning, together with the Grants and Contracts Unit, works closely with dozens of Domestic Violence and Integrated Domestic Violence Courts judges and court professionals to draft grant proposals that have secured millions of dollars in federal funding to support innovative programs and reforms designed to reduce intimate partner violence, strengthen victim services and promote offender accountability.

## Drug Treatment Courts

Drug Treatment Courts are parts that operate within courts that have criminal or family jurisdiction. These forums were established to help individuals and communities break the destructive cycle of repeated drug abuse and arrest. They provide nonviolent drug offenders the opportunity to participate in rehabilitation programs as alternatives to incarceration. New York State leads the nation in the expansion and institutionalization of drug courts into daily court operations. Each drug court in New York is locally based and reflects the legal culture of the community. Support for the program comes from the local communities, the court system budget and the federal government.

## DWI Courts

Driving while under the influence of drugs and alcohol poses serious dangers to drivers, their passengers and members of the public. The court system dedicates significant resources to support the Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) & Driving While Ability Impaired (DWAI) Parts, which ensure that individuals who drive while impaired are held accountable for their actions. The court system operates 14 DWI Treatment Courts and 34 DWI courts that are not treatment focused. Impaired driving due to marijuana legalization remains a concern. An Insurance Institute for Highway Safety study shows that in other states with legalized marijuana, fatal crashes rose by 4 percent while crashes with injuries rose 6 percent.

### *Recent grant funding for Domestic Violence and IDV Courts:*

- ✔ *The Bronx County IDV Court recently received an award of **\$550,000** to add a resource coordinator and increase its civil legal service capacity.*
- ✔ *The Albany County Family Court and Albany County Domestic Violence Part received a joint award of **\$650,000** to expand their supervised visitation and abusive partner intervention programs.*
- ✔ *In Rockland County, an award of **\$500,000** will help create a new Domestic Violence Criminal Court hub for the County, in addition to its existing IDV Court.*
- ✔ *In Onondaga County, an award of **\$750,000** was received to expand services in the Syracuse City Court's Domestic Violence Part and the County's IDV Court.*



Panelists Gigi Prieto, Sara Krizan and Chantal La-Fon participated in a Human Trafficking Intervention Court training program.

## Human Trafficking Intervention Courts

The court system operates 12 Human Trafficking Intervention Courts (HTICs) committed to ensuring trauma-informed responses to justice-involved victims of sex trafficking. While there has been a welcome decrease in the number of prostitution-related arrests across the state, the court system continues to work to identify justice-involved individuals at high risk of trafficking and other forms of gender-based violence. Research has shown that most justice-involved women have extensive histories of complex physical and sexual trauma, which may be connected to their criminal justice involvement.

The New York Survivors of Trafficking Attaining Relief Together Act (START) allows trafficked individuals to file a motion with the court to vacate criminal convictions that result from having been a victim of sex or labor trafficking or compelled prostitution. The court system is working with the Administrative Judges to designate a judge familiar with issues relating to trafficking to hear these motions.

## Elder Abuse Prevention

Elder abuse, which can take the form of physical, emotional or sexual abuse, neglect or financial exploitation, happens frequently and impacts older adults of all races, backgrounds and socio-economic groups. Financial abuse is particularly prevalent, with over \$36 billion annually estimated to be taken from older adults nationwide.

The Elder Justice Innovation project commenced in January 2022 after the court system was awarded a \$1 million grant from the federal government to modernize and reimagine guardianship proceedings in New York State. The three main goals of this grant are: modernizing data systems for easy reporting and analysis; creating training and educational materials for lay guardians; and revising guardianship forms and motion templates so that they are in plain language and in languages other than English.

For more information, visit: [www.elderjustice.nycourts.gov](http://www.elderjustice.nycourts.gov)



Newburgh City Judge Paul Trachte shares pictures of his military veteran father during a Veteran's Day event in November.

## Mental Health Courts

Mental Health Courts (MHCs) seek to craft a meaningful response to the problems posed by defendants with mental illness in the criminal justice system. Addressing both the treatment needs of defendants with mental illness and the public safety concerns of communities, these specialized courts link defendants with mental illness to long-term treatment as an alternative to incarceration. With the opening of a misdemeanor MHC in each of the NYC boroughs, the UCS now has 39 MHCs statewide

## Opioid Courts

The court system has 28 operational opioid courts, with more earmarked in 10 additional counties. The Office for Justice Initiatives partnered with the New York State Department of Health – New York Medication Assisted Treatment and Emergency Referrals (NY MATTERS) to improve access to Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) for opioid court participants.

NY MATTERS is a statewide referral network that uses an electronic platform to rapidly connect participants to medical professionals for MOUD evaluations. This platform had only been available to hospital emergency rooms and correctional settings; however, in June 2021, the court system partnered with NY MATTERS and has begun the process of onboarding courts to their electronic referral platform. This partnership was first piloted in Dutchess and Oneida Counties and in 2022 expanded access to 10 courts who were provided with tablets and connected to the NY MATTERS platform.



Newburgh City Court held its Veterans Day Celebration in November 2022.

## Veterans Treatment Courts

Veterans Treatment Courts (VTC) are a hybrid of mental health courts and drug treatment courts. They were established in recognition of the uniqueness of military culture, with the understanding that some justice-involved veterans develop mental health and substance use issues following military service. These courts work collaboratively with volunteer peer veteran mentors, veteran advocate organizations, community veteran service providers, the US Department of Veterans Affairs and others to ensure that veterans receive help for their unique needs so they can achieve healthy goals and lead productive post-military lives.

Buffalo City Court created the first VTC in 2008. The concept has expanded statewide and there are now 34 Veteran's Treatment Courts in 26 counties, with new VTCs planned for Rockland County, Orange County and the Beacon City Courts.

## Mentoring Programs

In addition to the mentoring programs that are part of the problem-solving courts and professional and diversity programs of New York's courts, these programs assist other young people.

The United-Community Action Network (U-CAN) is a court-based mentoring program in which committed volunteer mentors are paired with young men and women facing criminal court or Family Court cases. U-CAN launched in Cohoes City Court in August 2017 and has expanded to other criminal and family courts across the state. U-CAN mentors offer support and structure to young offenders, with weekly meetings, as they navigate a year of interim probation and work to turn their lives in a positive direction. Those who successfully complete the program are allowed to withdraw their plea and the case is either adjourned in contemplation of dismissal or the charge is reduced.

The New York City Family Court Mentoring Program, a partnership with the New York City Family Court, the New York State Mentoring Program, Lawyers for Children and The Legal Aid Society, assists young people who are aging out of foster care by matching them with dedicated mentors. Marsh McClennan and Wilkie Farr & Gallagher provide support and mentors for this valuable program. A similar program in which emerging foster children are paired with community and business leaders is being developed in Monroe County.



Chemung County Court

# Specialty Courts

## Commercial Division

Since its creation in 1995, the Commercial Division of the New York State Supreme Court has transformed business litigation and made the State a preferred forum for complex business disputes. Renowned as one of the world's most efficient venues for the resolution of commercial disputes and located in the world's leading financial center, the Commercial Division is available to businesses of all sizes, both inside and outside the State of New York.

The Commercial Division features judges with commercial law expertise who are familiar with complex contract concepts, securities (including derivatives and other specialty instruments) and business organizations (including numerous international structures), and who have a sophisticated understanding of globalization, international trade and application of laws of foreign jurisdictions, when required. It embraces advanced courtroom technology for trials, provides for efficient resolution of discovery disputes and offers accelerated adjudication.

Through the work of the Commercial Division Advisory Council—a committee of commercial practitioners, corporate in-house counsel and jurists devoted to the Division's excellence—the Commercial Division has functioned as an incubator, becoming a recognized leader in court system innovation, and demonstrating an unparalleled creativity and flexibility in development of rules and practices.

In 2022, the Commercial Division adopted new procedural rules proposed by the Advisory Council on mandatory settlement conferences; discovery of electronically stored information; proportionality and reasonableness; early case assessment disclosures and analysis; electronic submission of papers; statements of material facts in connection with summary judgment motions; interlineation of responsive pleadings; use of remote appearance technology to avoid adjournments of conferences; the form of motion papers; information on cases; and settlements and discontinuances.

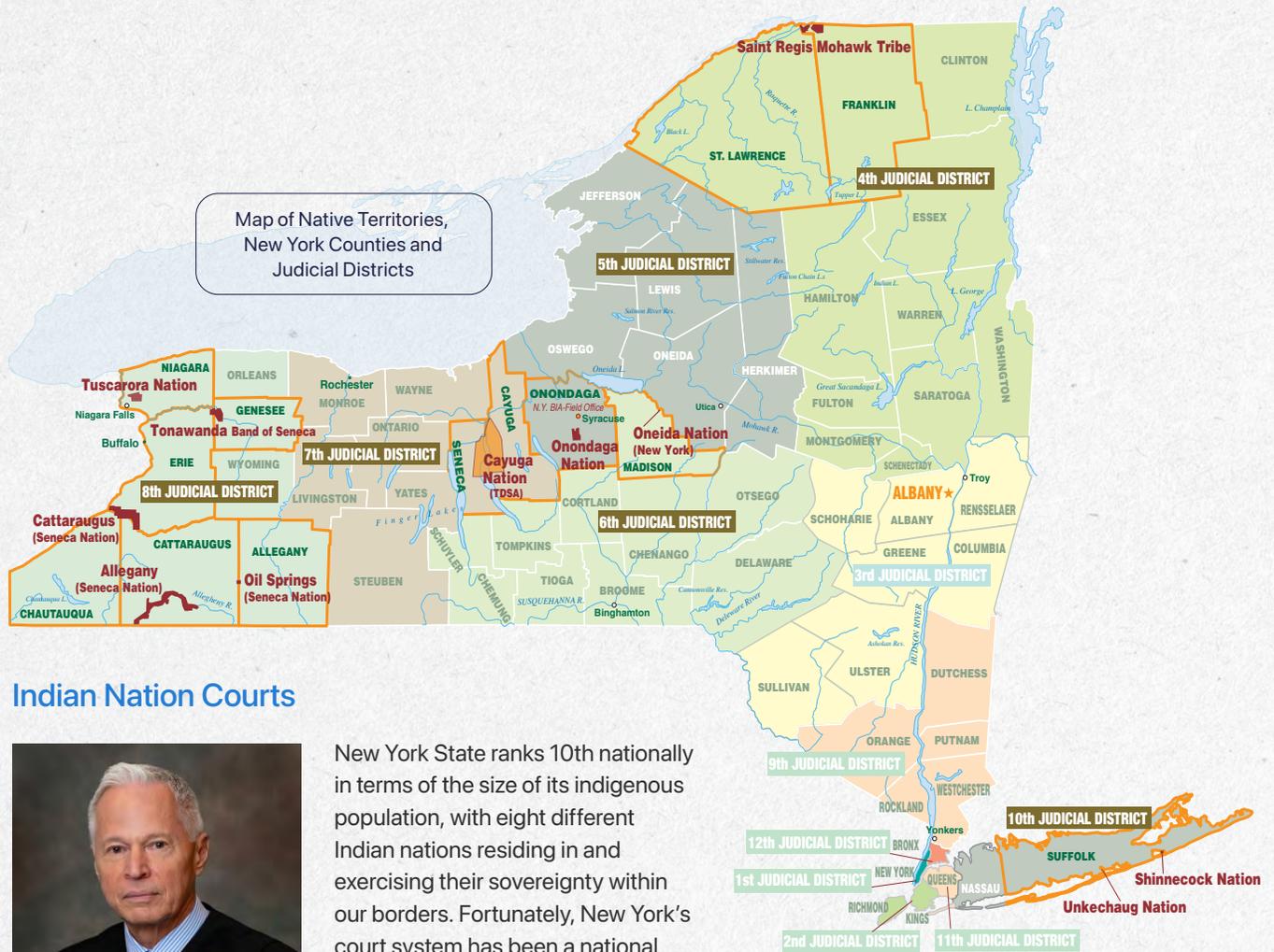
The Advisory Council organized a virtual lunchtime lecture series during June 2022 for summer interns working with Commercial Division Justices and summer associates at law firms throughout New York State. The goal of the series was to educate future lawyers about the Commercial Division and commercial practice, the wide variety of cases that come before the Commercial Division, and the value of clerking, interning and litigating in the Commercial Division.

**FREE WEBINAR**  
**THE BENEFITS OF THE COMMERCIAL DIVISION TO THE STATE OF NEW YORK**  
Learn about this specialized court, the expertise of its judges, and the advantages and benefits it provides to businesses and to New York State.  
JUNE 07 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Presented by The Business Council of New York State

 <b>HONORABLE JANET DIFIORE</b> Chief Judge of the State of New York	 <b>HONORABLE MARGUERITE A. GRAYS</b> Administrative Judge Commercial Division Justice
 <b>HONORABLE LAWRENCE K. MARKS</b> Chief Administrative Judge	 <b>ROBERT L. HAID</b> Chair Commercial Division Advisory Council
 <b>HEATHER C. BRICCIOTTI, ESQ.</b> President & CEO The Business Council of New York State	 <b>SARAH J. MUGEL</b> General Counsel & Corporate Secretary National Fuel Gas Company
 <b>KATHY HIRATA CHIN</b> Member Commercial Division Advisory Council	 <b>VETA T. RICHARDSON</b> President & CEO Association of Corporate Counsel
 <b>PENELOPE L. CHRISTOPHOROU</b> Chair American Bar Association Business Law Section	 <b>HONORABLE O. PETER SHERWOOD</b> Former Commercial Division Justice

The Advisory Council also participated in a virtual program entitled “The Benefits of the Commercial Division to the State of New York” which The Business Council of New York State, Inc. presented and recorded on June 7, 2022 for its members as well as the Executive and Legislative Branches of the New York State government, the business and legal communities and the press. The program discussed improvements that have been made to the Commercial Division’s rules, procedures and operations to be responsive to the business community’s needs, and to make the business litigation process in New York more efficient and predictable. A more hospitable and attractive environment for business litigation encourages businesses to maintain their presence in New York State or relocate to the Empire State.

For more information, visit:  
<http://ww2.nycourts.gov/courts/comdiv/index.shtml>



Map of Native Territories, New York Counties and Judicial Districts

## Indian Nation Courts



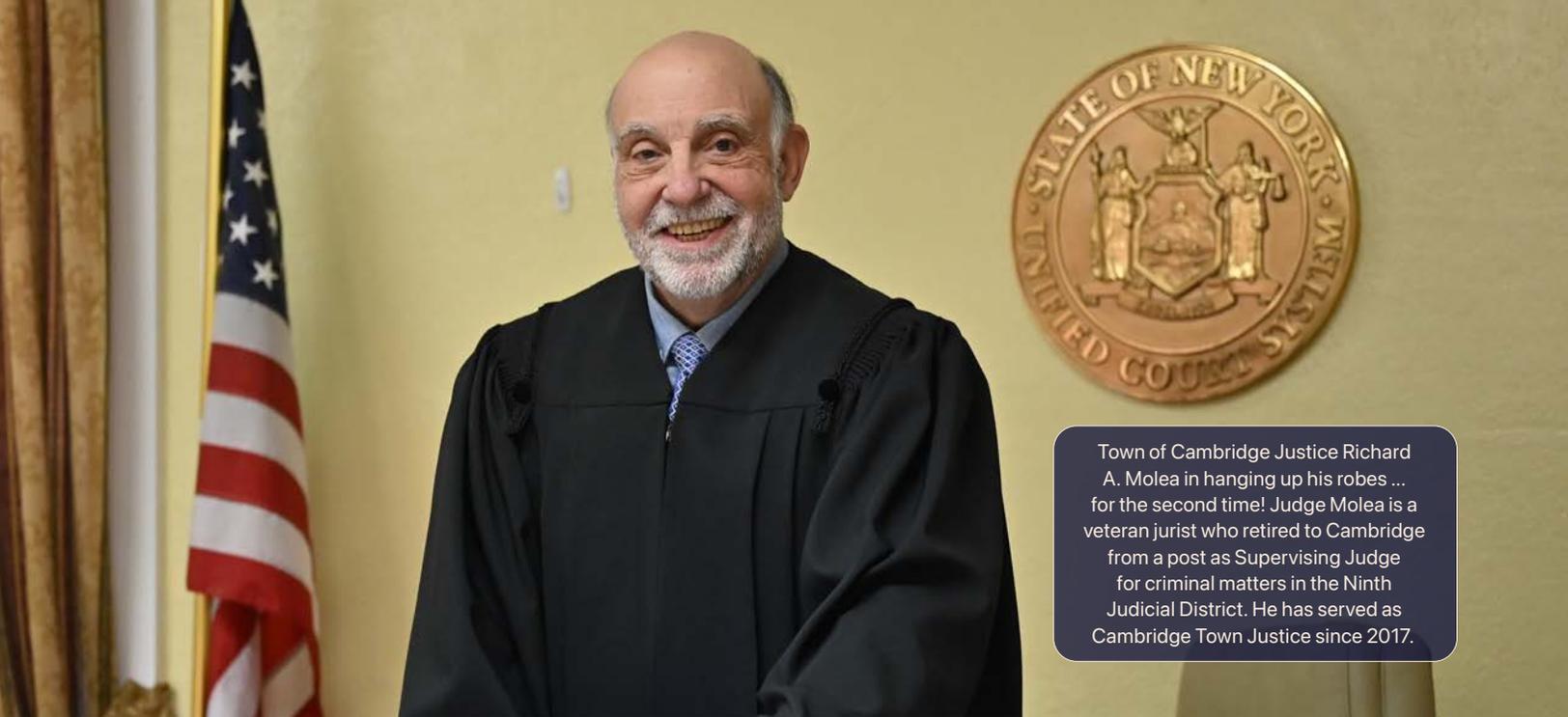
Justice Mark Montour

New York State ranks 10th nationally in terms of the size of its indigenous population, with eight different Indian nations residing in and exercising their sovereignty within our borders. Fortunately, New York’s court system has been a national leader in improving the administration of justice for tribal nations and that work has been done through the efforts of the Unified Court System Tribal Courts Committee. Justice Mark Montour of the Appellate Division, Fourth Department, serves as state facilitator for the New York Federal, State and Tribal Courts and Indian Nations Justice Forum. He is the first Native American in New York State history to ever hold a state judicial position and first elevated to any of the Appellate Division departments. An Amici podcast interview with Justice Montour is posted on the UCS website.

## Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)

In partnership with the Office of Children and Family Services Native American Services, the court system began regional ICWA roundtables to build relationships and address ICWA issues through collaboration with local tribal nations and family courts. The first roundtable was conducted in the western part of the state in June 2020. The first Central New York Roundtable was conducted in October 2021, and the first downstate roundtable was held in early 2022.

Additionally, the court system has developed a partnership with the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Court Improvement Program representative and OCFS Bureau of Native American Services to provide support for training and regular convenings to address ICWA systems issues, such as a statewide training series; support for development of a Tribal Family Court; and development of a statewide annual conference.



Town of Cambridge Justice Richard A. Molea in hanging up his robes ... for the second time! Judge Molea is a veteran jurist who retired to Cambridge from a post as Supervising Judge for criminal matters in the Ninth Judicial District. He has served as Cambridge Town Justice since 2017.

## Town and Village Courts

The Office of Justice Court Support (OJCS) provides legal, educational, financial and operational support to the 1,189 town and village courts in the 57 counties outside New York City. OJCS supports 1,735 justices and 1,680 court clerks, to ensure that these “courts closest to the people” are able to operate effectively.

In 2022, OJCS:

- ✓ Provided quality education and training to both judges and clerks live-virtually, through an online learning platform, and in-person for the first time since early 2020, including the creation and implementation of 12 new judicial continuing education programs and 6 new court clerk continuing education programs.
- ✓ Provided, in coordination with the Office for Justice Initiatives as part of the Equal Justice in the Courts Initiative, access to all judges and clerks to the mandatory Implicit Bias Training “Justice and Fairness for All: Dignity and Respect in the New York State Unified Court System.”
- ✓ Conducted a 5-day live-virtual training of over 30 newly elected or appointed town and village justices in April 2022 and 5-day in-person training in December 2022 of over 65 newly elected or appointed town and village justices. Presented 12 introductory courses in-person and online for over 115 newly hired court clerks.
- ✓ Provided telephone and email support, including nights and weekends, to assist with legal, operational, and financial responsibilities within the courts.
- ✓ Coordinated with the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge, various judicial districts and OCA Counsel’s Office on the continued implementation of Centralized Arraignment Parts (CAP) statewide. These CAP courts ensure counsel at first appearance for defendants arraigned in those parts. Currently, there are 28 CAP courts statewide, with 5 approved in 2022 alone.
- ✓ Coordinated closely with stakeholder partners within the Unified Court System and Office of Court Administration as well as the Office of the State Comptroller, the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, the Department of Motor Vehicles, the New York State Magistrates Association and the New York State Association Magistrates Court Clerks.
- ✓ The Office of Justice Court Support administers the Justice Court Assistance Program. Close to \$3 million was awarded to courts statewide in the 2022-23 funding cycle to assist them in purchasing of resources and equipment necessary to fulfill their critical role in our justice system.



Above: Acting Chief Judge Anthony Cannataro and Judge Kathie E. Davidson, Dean of the Judicial Institute, welcome Westchester County high school students to the Pipeline Diversity Institute in October 2022.

Below: Raquel Aracena presents a workshop on cover letter and resume writing at the Professional Development Academy held at the Judicial Institute in May 2022.





# Training

## New York State Judicial Institute

The Judicial Institute (JI), established in 2001, is a year-round center for judicial education, training and research. It is designed to enhance the quality of the New York courts, ensuring that our Judiciary sets the standard for decisional and operational excellence around the country while offering a forum for judicial scholarship that includes continuing education seminars as well as cooperative education programs with other states.



For the first time since 2019, the Judicial Summer Sessions were held in person, focusing on a consistent theme: “Empowering the Judiciary to Pursue and Achieve Excellence Through Education.” The curriculum was specially designed to support the court system’s return to full operations, and the dramatic progress underway, post-pandemic, to move dockets efficiently, reduce backlogs and delays and improve the quality of justice services. The thread running throughout the Summer Sessions was empowering judges to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of the new hybrid model of court operations, in order to help speed the flow of cases and drive down backlogs for the benefit of all litigants across the state.

For more information, visit: <https://nycourts.gov/ip/judicialinstitute/index.shtml>

## New York State Legal Education Opportunity Program (LEO)

Sponsored by the Judicial Institute, the New York State Legal Education Opportunity Program, or “LEO,” is an intensive six-week summer program, taught by law school professors, that assists college graduates from educationally or economically disadvantaged backgrounds in acquiring the fundamental and practical skills necessary to succeed in law school.

LEO students not only receive classroom instruction on first-year core courses in law school, including legal research and writing, but they are also given the opportunity to visit courts in session and meet with and interact with lawyers and judges. The program also promotes diversity in the legal profession by improving the probability of law school success for students who come from groups that are traditionally underrepresented in the legal field.

## Judicial Campaign Ethics Center

The Judicial Campaign Ethics Center (JCEC) serves as a central resource on campaign ethics for judicial candidates each year.

In 2022, the JCEC provided campaign ethics training to 177 judicial candidates and received approximately 738 ethics inquiries from judicial candidates throughout the year. Many of those inquiries were from judicial candidates seeking guidance on ethics rules pertaining to calculating the candidate’s window period, attending political fundraising events, the ethical propriety of proposed campaign promotional literature, and the permissible uses of unexpended campaign funds.

For more information, visit: <http://ww2.nycourts.gov/ip/jcec>



Eighty-nine women and men who endured the challenging training regimen required to become NYS Court Officers graduated July 26 in a ceremony presided over by Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Deborah Kaplan.

NEW YORK STATE COURTS



Court Officer Raymond Bailey, accompanied by his family, was awarded a commendation at Rockland County Court for his heroism in rescuing a neighboring family from a house fire while off duty.

## Safety and Security

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) is responsible for developing uniform guidelines, policies and procedures for ensuring safety throughout the New York State Unified Court System. With the paramount goal of protecting judges, court staff and the public, DPS is responsible for emergency preparedness planning and procedures for each court location. The Chief of Public Safety Michael Magliano also oversees the management of judicial threats, reviews and assists in the development of security planning for new and existing facilities and is responsible for developing standards and curricula for the Court Officers Academy and for the Court Officers Rules and Procedures Manual.

The court system employs approximately 4,100 highly trained uniformed court officers who are peace officers under New York law, making it one of the largest law enforcement agencies in the nation.

The court system is committed to recruiting a diverse workforce throughout the state. A potential court officer must be at least 20 ½ years of age, a United States citizen, a resident of New York State and a high school graduate or the equivalent. They must have a valid NYS driver's license and be eligible to purchase and carry firearms.

Eighty-nine women and men who endured the challenging training regimen required to become NYS Court Officers graduated July 26 in a ceremony presided over by Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Deborah Kaplan.



Lt. Erica Prosper instructs recruits on the use of Narcan at the Court Officer Academy in Brooklyn.



Court Officer recruits receive tactics training at the Nassau County Fire Department Training Center in Old Bethpage.

## Court Officer Training Academy

The New York State Court Officers Academy provides training programs for all court system personnel classified as “peace officers.” The Academy, under the command of Chief of Training Joseph Baccellieri, Jr., has a staff of full-time court officers who are all certified as police instructors by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. In addition, adjunct Academy instructors are utilized throughout the State to carry out various training requirements. These highly trained professionals are responsible for carrying out all court system training programs (statewide), many of which are required by statute.

## Community Affairs Officers

Public safety officers are the “face” of our courthouses. Typically, they are the first to greet court users.

The perceptions and experiences that result from that encounter—be they positive or negative—can influence the court user’s view of the entire court system. The Department of Public Safety (DPS), led by Chief Michael Magliano, is committed to transparency and accountability, leveraging the Chief’s authority in establishing standards and curricula for the Court Officers Academy, and for the Court Officers Rules and Procedures Manual. Since DPS serves as a liaison between law enforcement and the public safety community at the local, state and federal levels, over the past year, the Department has focused on improving education and training programs and engaging with local communities outside of the court setting.



Court officers speaking with young people at the High School for Law Enforcement and Public Safety during Law Enforcement Week.



Judges, Court Officers and court employees applaud as Chief Sean Egan walks out of the Onondaga County Court in Syracuse after 31 years of service.



Onondaga County Court

# Access to Information

The court system is dedicated to facilitating access by the public to court and administrative records in full conformity with State law, and utilizes several different strategies to keep the public informed about court activities and information:

- ✓ The court system uses social media such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube to keep the public up to date on court system news.
- ✓ The Office of Public Information provides information about the court system to the media, the public and those who work within the court system.
- ✓ The Office of Public Affairs works to promote awareness of the work of the New York State Judiciary among the public, the legal community and court employees.

## New York Courts Emergency Alert Portal

Since the court system transitioned the New York Courts Emergency Alert Portal to provide timely alerts on delays or facility closings, nearly 23,000 individuals have subscribed to the service. Through this free service, users can receive prompt alerts as a text, email or phone call—or all three—when a court facility in a county or region of interest is closed or proceedings are delayed. For many years, the court system used a Twitter account to disseminate emergency alerts, but users were unable to personalize their account and consequently every user received every alert, even if the facility at issue was hundreds of miles away. Now, users only receive alerts for areas of interest to them, and they receive those alerts in a format (text, email or phone call) they choose.

Sign up here: <https://www.nycourts.gov/notice/emergency-alerts.shtml>

## Landlord-Tenant Eviction Dashboard

The Division of Technology & Court Research created the Statewide Landlord Tenant Eviction Dashboard to help answer questions about the volume and trends of landlord tenant eviction filings in the State. U.S. Census information about the geographic locations of the people involved in these filings is also available.

The Statewide Landlord Tenant Eviction Dashboard summarizes case-level data into dynamic tables and graphs. The dashboard contains information on landlord tenant eviction cases from January 2019 to present and is refreshed weekly. These data include city, district, and town and village courts statewide. The dashboard is available at <https://ww2.nycourts.gov/lt-evictions-33576>.

The court system encourages creative solutions to landlord-tenant disputes. For example, Suffolk County District Court currently operates “Diversion Rooms” in three of its busiest Landlord-Tenant courts. The Diversion Rooms are one-stop locations for landlords and tenants seeking legal representation, rental assistance and housing programs, or other services. The parties are given an opportunity to meet with the representatives in the Diversion Room before their cases are called again and are either continued or adjourned as necessary.

## eTrack

The court system’s free case information service provides information on future appearance dates for cases in Criminal and Family Courts. Individuals may also view information on both active and disposed cases in Civil Supreme and local Civil Courts. By signing up for the eTrack case tracking service, individuals can receive email updates and appearance reminders for Civil Supreme and local civil court cases.

## 800-Court-NY

As the Court System’s public information line, 800-Court-NY responds to an average of 100,000 calls each year. From updating the status of weather-related closures of court facilities and other emergency plans, to aiding callers with specific questions, 800-Court-NY typically assists hundreds of callers each day, using a virtual call center and specially trained staff from locations throughout the state. For callers who do not speak English, interpreter assistance is also available.



New York Supreme Court



Chenango County Court

# Grants and Contracts

The Office of Grants and Contracts is responsible for managing external funding awarded to the court system and for managing the Court System’s funding of a broad array of services.

The Contracts Unit is responsible for the fiscal management and stewardship of approximately 290 service contracts with legal aid and human service organizations, including the Center for Court Innovation, Judiciary Civil Legal Services providers, Attorney for the Child programs, Community Dispute Resolution Centers, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) programs and substance abuse, mental health and domestic violence services funded by grants. In 2022, Contracts and Procurement functions for OCA were consolidated within the Contracts Unit, centralizing the majority of goods and services purchases and providing a single point of contact for technical assistance with procurement and contracting processes.

The Office worked closely with the Office of Justice Court Support to administer the Justice Court Assistance Program in 2022. Through this initiative, UCS awarded nearly \$3 million to municipalities statewide to help Town and Village Courts purchase needed equipment, enhance their facilities, and address security concerns. These resources help local courts fulfill their critical role in our justice system.

The Grants Unit submitted 13 federal grants during 2022 and was awarded 9. Proposals were developed in collaboration with the Office for Justice Initiatives, the Division of Technology and Court Research and trial courts throughout the state. Grant funding will enhance treatment courts, improve access to justice, and address racial inequalities in the justice system.

*A few highlights:*

**\$1,948,202**

*The U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, awarded \$1,948,202 to support the implementation of a New York State Adult Treatment Court Comprehensive Screening Approach model. Funding will be used to identify barriers to treatment court access at all potential intercept points, and identify solutions to make connections to treatment and other appropriate interventions.*

**\$407,740**

*The National Center for State Courts awarded \$407,740 to support Eviction Diversion in Suffolk and Kings counties. Funding will be used to add full time facilitators to support the expansion and sustainability of Suffolk County’s existing eviction diversion initiatives and support the launch of a Kings County problem-solving Housing Court Part focusing on eviction diversion.*



St. Lawrence County Court

# Fiscal Overview

The UCS operates on a fiscal year that runs from April 1 through March 31, with funding supplied through the State Budget and approved by the Legislature and Governor. The Judiciary annually seeks funding through a Judiciary Budget that, after approval by the Court of Appeals and a certification of need by the Chief Judge, is transmitted to the Governor for submission to the Legislature in accordance with Article VII, Section 1, of the State Constitution. Appropriations of \$3.4 billion were approved by the Legislature for the State Judiciary for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.



## Criminal History Search Revenues

A portion of court system-collected revenue includes fees for services provided by UCS' Criminal History Search Unit, which, since 2003, has sold criminal history public records that include felony and misdemeanor convictions from all 62 counties. By law, the Office of Court Administration is solely responsible for the sale of these records produced by a search of its electronic database, charging a \$95 fee per name and date of birth searched. The revenue generated from each search request is allocated as follows:

- ✓ \$65 to the Indigent Legal Services Fund
- ✓ \$16 to the Office of Court Administration's Judiciary Data Processing Offset Fund
- ✓ \$9 to the Legal Services Assistance Fund
- ✓ \$5 to the General Fund.

In 2022, the Criminal History Search Unit collected \$485,152,261 for criminal history search records.



## Attorney Registration Revenues

Every attorney admitted to practice law in New York must file a biennial registration form. Attorneys actively practicing law in New York State or elsewhere must, upon registering, pay a \$375 fee, allocated as follows:

- ✓ \$240 to the Attorney Licensing Fund to cover the cost of the Appellate Division attorney admission and disciplinary programs.
- ✓ \$60 to the Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection, to support programs providing restitution to clients of dishonest attorneys.
- ✓ \$50 to the Indigent Legal Services Fund to cover fees of lawyers serving on 18-b panels representing indigent criminal defendants.
- ✓ \$25 to the Legal Services Assistance Fund.

In 2022, the UCS collected \$55,766,650 in attorney registration fees.



Bronx County Court

# Facilities

New York Court facilities are provided by and maintained and operated by the cities and counties they serve, an arrangement that requires coordination and cooperation between different agencies and different branches of government.

Since 1987, when the Court Facilities Act was passed in response to a pervasive sense that facilities were increasingly inadequate, the Unified Court System has provided financial assistance and guidance to local governments to help them meet their facility-related responsibilities. Over the years amendments to the Act have enhanced the State's role and increased financial assistance to localities.

During the height of the pandemic the court facility-related resources were shifted heavily in favor of daily cleaning operations in order to maintain safe, hygienic courthouse environments. As the pandemic began to fade, local governments have begun to return their focus to capital projects involving the renovation, expansion, or replacement of their court facilities to pre-pandemic levels.

In Brooklyn, the planning and design of a new Civil and Housing Court facility is underway, with a targeted completion of fall 2025. In the Bronx, the plan to "swap" Bronx Civil Court operations at County Courthouse, 851 Grand Concourse, with the Bronx Housing Court, 1118 Grand Concourse, is expected to go to bid for construction services in mid-2023. This project is also being coordinated with a separate project to install a new fire alarm and sprinkler system throughout the 851 Grand Concourse building. The necessary coordination of these two projects has resulted in a more protracted schedule for the "swap," which is currently set for completion in July 2024.

Other major capital projects within New York City involve the 60 Centre Street courthouse and construction of a new Staten Island Family Court facility. Advancement of these projects was dependent on finalizing a series of new funding agreements between the City, the Court System and the Dormitory Authority. The agreements were finalized in 2021, allowing these projects to advance through initial design efforts during 2022.

The 60 Centre Street project, which is in the preliminary design phase, will improve building functionality by addressing Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, improved building egress and relocation of certain high volume court operations to the lower floors. The Staten Island project is a multi-phase/multi-building project which will provide a new Family Court facility as well as a reorganization and consolidation of other court operations in nearby facilities. This project's completion is projected for September 2027.

Outside of New York City:

- ✓ Greene County's consultants are finalizing designs for a new addition/annex for the county's historic courthouse. This project is on schedule for a March 2024 completion.
- ✓ The City of Middletown completed designs for a new City Court facility which will convert a former Federal courthouse into a much-needed new City Court facility. The project went to bid in December 2022 with award to follow in early 2023. Anticipated completion is set for January 2024.
- ✓ Dutchess County is in the early stages of a five-year plan, multi-phase infrastructure project that will entail renovations in the Family Court courthouse to accommodate the project's phasing and relocation needs. This project is in the design phase and is expected to be bid in early 2023.
- ✓ The Nassau County Family/Matrimonial courthouse project, which will result in a state-of-the-art facility to house both Family Court and Supreme Court matrimonial matters, is on target for a spring 2024 completion.

# Measures Enacted into Law in 2022

The Office of Counsel is the principal representative of the Unified Court System in the legislative process. In this role, it is responsible for developing the Judiciary's legislative program and for providing the legislative and executive branches with analyses and recommendations concerning legislative measures that may have an impact on the courts and their administrative operations. It also serves a liaison function with bar association committees, judicial associations, and other groups, public and private, with respect to changes in court-related statutory law and staffs the Chief Administrative Judge's advisory committees on civil practice, criminal law and procedure, family law, estates and trusts, matrimonial practice, and the local courts.

During the 2022 legislative session, Counsel's Office, with the assistance of the Chief Administrative Judge's advisory committees, prepared and submitted 30 new measures for legislative consideration. Ultimately, one was enacted into law, the Judiciary Budget bill.

The following is a summary of major action taken in 2022 on measures in the Judiciary's legislative agenda.

- ✔ Chapter 51-BUDGET (Senate 8001A/Assembly A9001A). Enacts the 2022-23 Judiciary Budget. Eff. 4/1/22.



# Court Structure and Caseload Activity

The Unified Court System is comprised of 11 separate trial courts, an Appellate Division with four regional departments, an Appellate Term that hears appeals from certain trial courts in certain regions of the state, and the Court of Appeals — the highest court in the State.

## Appellate Courts

The Court of Appeals is the state's court of last resort. It consists of the Chief Judge and six Associate Judges appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, to 14-year terms. The court's caseload activity is reported in TABLE 1.

Table 1: Caseload Activity in Court of Appeals - 2022							
Applications Decided [CPL 460.20(3)(b)]							1,474
Records on Appeal Filed							82
Oral Arguments							96
Appeals Decided							91
Motions Decided							957
Judicial Conduct Determinations Reviewed							1
Dispositions of Appeals Decided in the Court of Appeals by Basis of Jurisdiction							
BASIS OF JURISDICTION	AFFIRMED	REVERSED	MODIFIED	DISMISSED	OTHER*	TOTAL	
All Cases							
Dissents in Appellate Division	6	2	0	1	0	9	
Permission of Court of Appeals or Judge thereof	29	18	3	1	0	51	
Permission of Appellate Division or Justice thereof	13	10	0	0	0	23	
Constitutional Question	1	2	1	0	0	4	
Stipulation for Judgment Absolute	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other	0	0	0	0	4	4	
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>91</b>	
Civil Cases							
Dissents in Appellate Division	6	2	0	1	0	9	
Permission of Court of Appeals	18	10	2	1	0	31	
Permission of Appellate Division	8	5	0	0	0	13	
Constitutional Question	1	2	1	0	0	4	
Stipulation for Judgment Absolute	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other	0	0	0	0	3	3	
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>60</b>	
Criminal Cases							
Permission of Court of Appeals Judge	11	8	1	0	0	20	
Permission of Appellate Division Justice	5	5	0	0	0	10	
Other	0	0	0	0	1	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>31</b>	

\*Includes anomalies which did not result in an affirmation, reversal, modification or dismissal (e.g., judicial suspensions, acceptance of a case for review pursuant to Court Rule 500.27)

Below the Court of Appeals is the Appellate Division of State Supreme Court, a mid-level appellate court. The Presiding Justice and Associate Justices of the Appellate Division in each Judicial Department are designated by the Governor from among Justices elected to the Supreme Court. The Presiding Justices serve for the duration of the term for which they were elected to Supreme Court; the Associate Justices may serve terms of five years or of indeterminate length, depending on the seats they are appointed to fill. The Appellate Division's caseload activity is listed in TABLE 2.

<b>Table 2: Caseload Activity in the Appellate Division - 2022</b>									
	FIRST DEPT		SECOND DEPT		THIRD DEPT		FOURTH DEPT		TOTAL
	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	
<b>Records on Appeal Filed</b>	<b>1,544</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>2,474</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>7,116</b>
Disposed of before argument or submission (e.g., dismissed, withdrawn, settled)	1,951	204	3,347	265	982	109	0	0	6,858
Disposed of after argument or submission:									
Affirmed	939	410	1,364	483	513	297	293	314	4,613
Reversed	274	19	582	41	87	30	70	38	1,141
Modified	264	68	211	90	89	29	100	47	898
Dismissed	182	8	376	6	83	9	139	8	811
Other	14	12	60	28	2	9	1	10	136
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>3,624</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>5,940</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>1,756</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>14,457</b>
Oral Arguments*	1,239		1,676		501		609		<b>4,025</b>
Motions Decided*	4,009		5,403		5,013		5,942		<b>20,367</b>
Admissions to the Bar	2,175		1,654		3,662		245		<b>7,736</b>
Atty. Disciplinary Proceedings Decided	70		148		234		81		<b>533</b>

\*Not broken down by civil or criminal.

Appellate Terms of the Supreme Court in the First and Second Judicial Departments hear appeals from civil and criminal cases originating in New York City's Civil and Criminal Courts. In the Second Department, the Appellate Terms also hear appeals from civil and criminal cases originating in District, City, and town and village Justice Courts. Justices are selected by the Chief Administrative Judge upon approval of the Presiding Justice of the appropriate Appellate Division. The Appellate Terms' caseload activity is listed in TABLE 3.

<b>Table 3: Caseload Activity in the Appellate Terms - 2022</b>							
	FIRST DEPT			SECOND DEPT			TOTAL
	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	
<b>Records on Appeal Filed</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>1,143</b>
Disposed of before argument or submission (e.g., dismissed, withdrawn, settled)	2	13	15	472	150	622	637
Disposed of after argument or submission:							
Affirmed	36	86	122	158	80	238	360
Reversed	8	12	20	101	33	134	154
Modified	2	6	8	41	9	50	58
Dismissed	4	-	4	22	4	26	30
Other	-	1	1	19	3	22	23
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>1,092</b>	<b>1,262</b>
Oral Arguments*	118			196			<b>314</b>
Motions Decided*	801			2,254			<b>3,055</b>

\*Not broken down by civil or criminal.

## Trial Courts

In 2022, 2,261,997 cases were filed statewide in the trial courts. Criminal cases accounted for 31%. Civil cases accounted for 43%. Nineteen and a half percent of the cases were in Family Court and 6.5% were in Surrogate's Court. TABLE 4 shows total filings in the trial courts over a five-year period. FIGURE A shows the percentage of filings by case type.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Criminal</b>					
Supreme and County Courts Criminal <sup>a</sup>	43,040	39,324	19,059	29,670	29,681
Criminal Court of the City of NY <sup>b</sup>	318,261	324,399	170,463	202,548	228,505
City & District Courts Outside NYC <sup>b</sup>	592,231	600,148	382,844	412,618	420,090
Parking Tickets <sup>c</sup>	93,286	14,287	5,337	17,640	18,150
<b>Criminal Total</b>	<b>1,046,818</b>	<b>978,158</b>	<b>577,703</b>	<b>662,476</b>	<b>696,426</b>
<b>Civil</b>					
Supreme Court Civil <sup>d</sup>	461,057	452,910	307,203	349,635	314,427
Civil Court of the City of NY <sup>e</sup>	555,555	541,059	325,898	332,872	370,733
City & District Courts Outside NYC <sup>e</sup>	196,821	191,201	117,688	124,037	140,603
County Courts Civil <sup>d</sup>	93,013	85,726	86,938	96,837	98,179
Court of Claims	1,765	1,801	1,590	1,577	1,251
Small Claims Assessment Review Program	40,466	42,029	102,571	91,426	47,960
<b>Civil Total</b>	<b>1,348,677</b>	<b>1,314,726</b>	<b>941,888</b>	<b>996,384</b>	<b>973,153</b>
<i>Family</i> <sup>f</sup>	580,548	578,346	325,694	369,186	446,022
<i>Surrogate's</i>	144,325	141,237	118,284	139,429	146,396
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,120,368</b>	<b>3,012,467</b>	<b>1,963,569</b>	<b>2,167,475</b>	<b>2,261,997</b>

\*This reflects data entry as of 2/28/23.

<sup>a</sup> Includes felonies and misdemeanors, of which 1,435 were misdemeanor filings in 2022.

<sup>b</sup> NYC includes arrest and summons cases, and beginning in 2019, includes uniform traffic tickets that require the court's involvement. Outside NYC includes arrest cases and uniform traffic tickets that require the court's involvement.

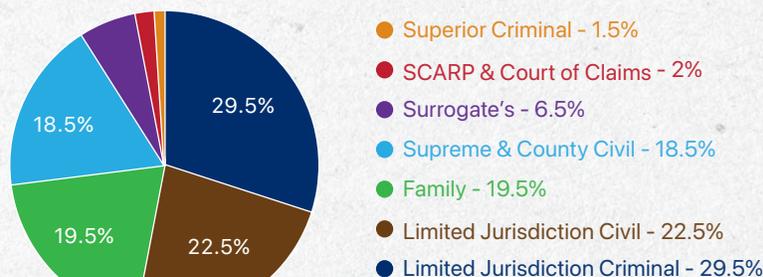
<sup>c</sup> Beginning in 2019, parking ticket counts only include those tickets that require the court's involvement. The counts for 2019, and going forward, include both NYC and outside NYC.

<sup>d</sup> Includes new cases, ex parte applications and uncontested matrimonial cases.

<sup>e</sup> Includes civil, housing, small claims and commercial claims.

<sup>f</sup> Includes Permanency Planning Hearings held.

**Figure A: Trial Court Filings by Case Type - 2022\***

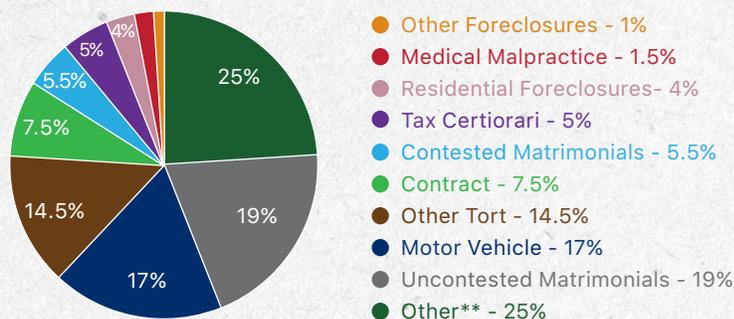


\*This reflects data entry as of 2/28/23.

## The Supreme Court

The Supreme Court generally handles cases outside the authority of the lower courts such as civil matters beyond the monetary limits of the lower courts' jurisdiction; divorce, separation, and annulment proceedings; equity suits, such as mortgage foreclosures and injunctions; and criminal prosecutions of felonies. During 2022, there were 314,427 civil filings in Supreme Court, including 152,484 new cases, 126,112 ex parte applications and 35,831 uncontested matrimonial cases. A total of 318,232 matters reached disposition.

**Figure B: Supreme Civil Filings by Case Type - 2022\***



\*This reflects data entry as of 2/28/23.

\*\*Other mostly consists of Guardianship, Arbitration, Article 78, Real Property, Mental Hygiene, and Special Proceeding cases.

**Table 5: Supreme Civil Cases - 2022\***

Location	FILINGS		DISPOSITIONS				
	New Cases	Note of Issue	Total	Pre-Note	Note of Issue	Settlements	Verdicts
<b>Total State</b>	<b>152,484</b>	<b>34,527</b>	<b>152,762</b>	<b>121,081</b>	<b>31,681</b>	<b>31,302</b>	<b>1,163</b>
<b>NYC</b>	<b>74,030</b>	<b>14,897</b>	<b>66,955</b>	<b>52,120</b>	<b>14,835</b>	<b>12,164</b>	<b>722</b>
Bronx	14,360	2,804	11,722	9,243	2,479	2,512	101
Kings	24,163	4,693	23,240	17,926	5,314	4,611	155
New York	15,475	3,188	13,969	11,468	2,501	2,017	76
Queens	17,243	3,389	14,711	10,848	3,863	2,144	340
Richmond	2,789	823	3,313	2,635	678	880	50
<b>ONYC</b>	<b>78,454</b>	<b>19,630</b>	<b>85,807</b>	<b>68,961</b>	<b>16,846</b>	<b>19,138</b>	<b>441</b>
Albany	3,196	530	3,642	3,122	520	375	7
Allegany	143	24	183	158	25	13	2
Broome	1,068	145	1,040	903	137	36	3
Cattaraugus	251	62	316	277	39	82	2
Cayuga	322	58	395	337	58	19	0
Chautauqua	628	28	712	666	46	100	2
Chemung	404	73	392	326	66	8	0
Chenango	174	52	189	139	50	7	0
Clinton	283	29	331	292	39	61	0
Columbia	322	66	343	272	71	12	0
Cortland	150	38	154	108	46	9	0
Delaware	182	38	258	212	46	6	4
Dutchess	2,253	638	2,494	1,974	520	581	17
Erie	6,810	1,009	6,851	5,914	937	1,824	37
Essex	196	13	198	183	15	1	0
Franklin	238	28	225	202	23	4	0
Fulton	311	53	447	387	60	80	1
Genesee	220	20	291	265	26	24	0
Greene	246	75	361	250	111	18	2
Herkimer	293	52	317	275	42	24	0

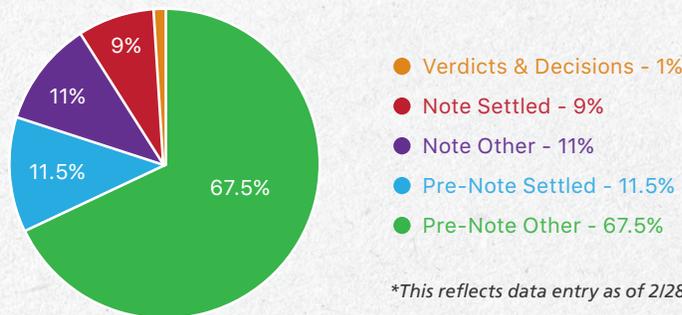
\*This reflects data entry as of 2/28/23.

**Table 5: Supreme Civil Cases - 2022\***

Location	FILINGS		DISPOSITIONS				
	New Cases	Note of Issue	Total	Pre-Note	Note of Issue	Settlements	Verdicts
<b>Total State</b>	<b>152,484</b>	<b>34,527</b>	<b>152,762</b>	<b>121,081</b>	<b>31,681</b>	<b>31,302</b>	<b>1,163</b>
Jefferson	482	129	492	370	122	12	1
Lewis	60	12	62	48	14	1	0
Livingston	227	43	224	185	39	18	1
Madison	237	53	213	162	51	10	0
Monroe	3,602	687	3,511	2,875	636	194	17
Montgomery	271	33	301	254	47	134	1
Nassau	15,869	5,964	16,280	13,036	3,244	3,501	89
Niagara	1,074	267	1,305	1,058	247	198	7
Oneida	1,402	335	1,425	1,112	313	217	8
Onondaga	2,428	790	2,593	2,039	554	142	11
Ontario	575	106	587	477	110	31	2
Orange	2,917	796	3,411	2,716	695	1,003	19
Orleans	151	10	238	222	16	30	0
Oswego	469	13	522	488	34	17	1
Otsego	259	53	251	206	45	1	2
Putnam	573	155	697	532	165	25	4
Rensselaer	739	122	823	701	122	51	4
Rockland	2,732	573	3,117	2,376	741	898	10
St. Lawrence	452	74	479	392	87	103	0
Saratoga	941	200	1,059	823	236	51	0
Schenectady	729	139	985	804	181	320	5
Schoharie	137	4	126	113	13	1	0
Schuyler	50	16	46	25	21	1	1
Seneca	145	18	154	139	15	6	0
Steuben	299	52	383	309	74	24	0
Suffolk	13,498	2,717	15,112	12,735	2,377	6,615	116
Sullivan	694	105	832	698	134	27	3
Tioga	158	36	194	149	45	6	1
Tompkins	260	66	361	257	104	32	5
Ulster	1,097	434	1,419	921	498	168	12
Warren	360	63	347	284	63	5	0
Washington	370	51	352	286	66	84	0
Wayne	307	53	372	315	57	21	1
Westchester	6,929	2,378	8,030	5,268	2,762	1,861	42
Wyoming	217	38	282	259	23	43	1
Yates	54	14	83	65	18	3	0

\*This reflects data entry as of 2/28/23.

**Figure C: Supreme Civil Disposition by Type of Disposition - 2022\***



\*This reflects data entry as of 2/28/23.

## County Court

County Courts, located in each county outside New York City, handle criminal prosecutions of felonies and misdemeanors committed within the county, although in practice most minor offenses are handled by lower courts. County Courts also have limited jurisdiction over civil lawsuits involving claims up to \$25,000. County Courts in the Third and Fourth Departments, while primarily trial courts, also hear appeals from cases originating in the City Courts and town and village Justice Courts. The statistical data for the County Courts' felony caseload are reported in combination with the felony caseload data for Supreme Court in TABLE 6.

**Table 6: Supreme Criminal & County Court - Felony Cases 2022\***

Location	FILINGS			DISPOSITIONS						
	Total	Indictments	SCI's**	Total	Guilty Pleas	Convictions	Acquittals	Nonjury Verdicts	Dismissals	Other
<b>Total State</b>	<b>28,246</b>	<b>20,307</b>	<b>7,939</b>	<b>32,699</b>	<b>26,198</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>3,316</b>	<b>2,186</b>
<b>NYC</b>	<b>11,380</b>	<b>10,132</b>	<b>1,248</b>	<b>14,809</b>	<b>10,602</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>2,402</b>	<b>1,401</b>
New York	2,760	2,652	108	2,939	2,022	34	22	4	660	197
Bronx	2,946	2,755	191	3,950	2,697	66	24	8	761	394
Kings	3,346	2,818	528	4,707	3,255	124	21	6	719	582
Queens	1,917	1,581	336	2,519	2,069	66	10	9	224	141
Richmond	411	326	85	694	559	9	0	1	38	87
<b>ONYC</b>	<b>16,866</b>	<b>10,175</b>	<b>6,691</b>	<b>17,890</b>	<b>15,596</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>785</b>
Albany	487	222	265	529	473	25	1	0	28	2
Allegany	73	47	26	80	46	0	0	0	17	17
Broome	423	249	174	361	325	6	2	1	22	5
Cattaraugus	236	152	84	209	184	2	0	0	15	8
Cayuga	211	120	91	238	227	3	0	0	6	2
Chautauqua	172	96	76	196	173	2	0	1	13	7
Chemung	302	285	17	365	292	6	5	10	18	34
Chenango	98	86	12	101	94	0	0	2	1	4
Clinton	144	76	68	140	132	1	2	0	2	3
Columbia	125	39	86	144	117	8	2	0	7	10
Cortland	141	70	71	101	87	2	0	0	6	6
Delaware	36	18	18	38	37	0	0	0	1	0
Dutchess	283	115	168	304	269	4	1	0	20	10
Erie	1,206	673	533	1,284	1,110	12	7	17	103	35
Essex	64	44	20	71	47	0	0	0	3	21
Franklin	47	40	7	70	63	1	1	0	3	2
Fulton	94	25	69	159	152	5	0	0	1	1
Genesee	236	136	100	297	255	6	2	4	16	14
Greene	180	75	105	120	118	0	0	0	2	0
Hamilton	5	2	3	6	4	0	0	0	1	1
Herkimer	83	21	62	94	81	3	0	0	2	8
Jefferson	312	114	198	362	345	9	1	4	2	1
Lewis	102	60	42	84	75	3	1	0	2	3
Livingston	151	107	44	134	125	4	2	0	0	3
Madison	154	53	101	151	148	3	0	0	0	0
Monroe	1,202	1,011	191	1,267	932	72	31	53	103	76

\*This reflects data entry as of 2/28/23.

\*\*Superior Court Information

**Table 6: Supreme Criminal & County Court - Felony Cases 2022\***

Location	FILINGS			DISPOSITIONS						
	Total	Indictments	SCI's**	Total	Guilty Pleas	Convictions	Acquittals	Nonjury Verdicts	Dismissals	Other
<b>Total State</b>	<b>28,246</b>	<b>20,307</b>	<b>7,939</b>	<b>32,699</b>	<b>26,198</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>3,316</b>	<b>2,186</b>
Montgomery	130	48	82	124	120	1	0	0	1	2
Nassau	1,402	651	751	1,668	1,454	24	3	2	88	97
Niagara	362	228	134	396	304	7	2	1	19	63
Oneida	569	388	181	625	547	11	1	1	34	31
Onondaga	901	636	265	968	853	30	8	4	63	10
Ontario	256	103	153	331	284	16	1	3	17	10
Orange	453	292	161	460	420	10	1	3	4	22
Orleans	71	54	17	68	59	1	0	0	5	3
Oswego	262	158	104	247	236	3	0	1	5	2
Otsego	54	45	9	68	59	1	0	0	4	4
Putnam	77	51	26	91	83	0	0	0	7	1
Rensselaer	236	195	41	278	250	7	3	0	8	10
Rockland	265	195	70	301	259	5	2	2	28	5
St. Lawrence	170	125	45	204	179	6	1	0	11	7
Saratoga	236	49	187	251	241	4	1	0	4	1
Schenectady	302	189	113	289	257	7	1	1	12	11
Schoharie	33	29	4	34	28	1	0	0	1	4
Schuyler	71	48	23	64	61	2	0	0	0	1
Seneca	96	41	55	90	86	0	0	0	4	0
Steuben	539	478	61	578	367	2	3	10	67	129
Suffolk	1,667	1,177	490	1,720	1,576	15	1	1	80	47
Sullivan	165	67	98	184	164	9	1	0	4	6
Tioga	71	52	19	73	65	2	0	1	2	3
Tompkins	113	51	62	105	94	4	0	0	4	3
Ulster	300	192	108	232	217	3	0	0	9	3
Warren	191	76	115	196	181	1	0	0	6	8
Washington	146	111	35	140	132	0	0	1	2	5
Wayne	139	95	44	167	147	6	1	2	7	4
Westchester	757	221	536	793	740	18	3	3	19	10
Wyoming	222	162	60	197	185	1	1	0	3	7
Yates	43	32	11	43	37	1	0	0	2	3

\*This reflects data entry as of 2/28/23.

\*\*Superior Court Information

## Court of Claims

The Court of Claims is a statewide court with exclusive authority over lawsuits involving monetary claims against the State of New York or certain other state-related entities such as the New York State Thruway, the City University of New York and the New York State Power Authority (claims for the appropriation of real property only). The Court hears cases at nine locations around the state. During 2022, 1,251 claims were filed and 1,403 were decided.

## Surrogate's Court

The Surrogate's Court, located in every county of the state, hears cases involving the affairs of the deceased, including the validity of wills and the administration of estates. These courts are also authorized to handle adoptions. See TABLE 7 for 2022 filings and dispositions by case type.

Case Type	TOTAL STATE		NYC		OUTSIDE NYC	
	Filings	Dispositions**	Filings	Dispositions**	Filings	Dispositions**
<b>Total</b>	<b>146,396</b>	<b>114,394</b>	<b>37,902</b>	<b>34,963</b>	<b>108,494</b>	<b>79,431</b>
Probate	41,063	41,234	11,450	11,054	29,613	30,180
Administration	22,486	22,382	9,531	8,117	12,955	14,265
Voluntary Admin.	29,532	29,532	8,711	8,711	20,821	20,821
Accounting	28,596	4,194	2,771	1,475	25,825	2,719
Inter Vivos Trust	1,361	1,073	167	226	1,194	847
Miscellaneous	7,426	7,063	2,218	3,274	5,208	3,789
Guardianship	15,233	7,643	2,955	1,959	12,278	5,684
Adoption	684	1,258	98	146	586	1,112
Estate Tax	15	15	1	1	14	14

\*This reflects data entry as of 1/30/23.

\*\*Includes orders and decrees signed.

## Family Court

The Family Court, located in each county outside New York City and citywide in the City, hears matters involving children and families, including adoption, guardianship, foster care approval and review, juvenile delinquency, family violence, child abuse and neglect, custody and visitation, and child support. See TABLE 8 for a breakdown of Family Court filings and dispositions. This table also contains filings and dispositions for the State's Integrated Domestic Violence (IDV) Courts.

Type of Petition	TOTAL STATE		NYC		OUTSIDE NYC	
	Filings	Dispositions	Filings	Dispositions	Filings	Dispositions
<b>Total</b>	<b>446,022</b>	<b>441,038</b>	<b>120,664</b>	<b>114,505</b>	<b>325,358</b>	<b>326,533</b>
Termination of Parental Rights	2,574	2,950	535	630	2,039	2,320
Surrender of Child	1,697	1,627	268	274	1,429	1,353
Child Protective (Neglect & Abuse)	27,623	31,340	8,040	10,617	19,583	20,723
Juvenile Delinquency	8,448	8,297	2,682	2,531	5,766	5,766
Designated Felony	369	240	210	100	159	140
Persons in Need of Supervision	988	897	178	143	810	754
Adoption	2,043	2,193	694	688	1,349	1,505
Adoption Certification	115	128	28	29	87	99
Guardianship	15,125	11,105	5,831	4,057	9,294	7,048
Custody/Visitation	139,363	138,333	32,056	28,273	107,307	110,060
Foster Care Review	142	95	74	40	68	55
Foster Care Placement	367	327	161	139	206	188
Family Offense	61,167	60,151	21,827	20,335	39,340	39,816
Paternity	13,179	12,653	4,252	3,809	8,927	8,844
Support	139,597	137,018	29,761	28,370	109,836	108,648
Uniform Interstate Family Support Act	4,203	4,646	1,580	2,011	2,623	2,635
Consent to Marry	0	1	0	0	0	1
Other	522	537	71	43	451	494
Permanency Planning Hearings Held	28,500	28,500	12,416	12,416	16,084	16,084

\*This reflects data entry as of 2/25/23.

## Civil Court of the City of New York

The Civil Court of the City of New York has jurisdiction over civil cases involving amounts up to \$25,000. It includes small claims and commercial claims parts for the informal resolution of matters involving amounts up to \$5,000, and a housing part presided over by judges designated by the Chief Administrator for landlord-tenant proceedings. New York City Civil Court Judges are elected to 10-year terms; housing judges are appointed to five-year terms. TABLE 9 shows the breakdown of filings and dispositions by case type and county.

Location	CIVIL ACTIONS		HOUSING		SMALL CLAIMS		COMMERCIAL CLAIMS	
	Filing <sup>a</sup>	Dispositions <sup>b</sup>	Filing <sup>a</sup>	Dispositions <sup>b</sup>	Filing	Dispositions	Filing	Dispositions
<b>New York City</b>	230,650	169,583	126,498	79,425	11,401	12,192	2,184	2,284
New York	27,556	33,378	23,064	16,042	2,537	3,027	453	525
Bronx	37,272	26,346	44,003	24,529	1,676	1,147	126	144
Kings	77,803	42,208	34,368	22,655	3,520	4,443	522	609
Queens	53,988	51,183	22,285	14,360	3,072	2,859	715	651
Richmond	34,031	16,468	2,778	1,839	596	716	368	355

\*This reflects data entry as of 2/28/23.

<sup>a</sup>Includes both answered and unanswered cases.

<sup>b</sup>Includes courtroom dispositions and default judgments.

## Criminal Court of the City of New York

The Criminal Court of the City of New York handles misdemeanors and violations. New York City Criminal Court Judges also conduct felony arraignments and other preliminary (pre-indictment) felony proceedings. They are appointed by the Mayor to 10-year terms. During 2022, 74 % of the arrests were misdemeanors, with 24% of all cases reaching disposition by plea. Another 62 % were dismissed; 6 % were sent to the grand jury; 7 % were disposed of by other means; and 1 % pled to a superior court information. TABLE 10 shows filings and dispositions by county for arrest cases, summons cases (cases in which an appearance ticket, returnable in court, is issued to the defendant), uniform traffic tickets, and parking tickets that require the court's involvement.

Location	ARREST CASES		SUMMONS CASES		TRAFFIC TICKETS		PARKING TICKETS	
	Filings	Dispositions	Filings**	Dispositions	Filings	Dispositions	Filings	Dispositions
<b>New York City</b>	133,561	135,971	62,059	74,055	32,885	35,175	268	301
New York	34,148	35,105	12,185	14,820	1,537	2,156	0	0
Bronx	23,582	24,528	16,174	17,968	3,104	3,114	2	2
Kings	38,243	38,738	19,709	26,433	11,611	13,781	78	122
Queens	30,981	30,703	11,296	12,132	13,837	13,255	182	171
Richmond	6,607	6,897	2,695	2,702	2,796	2,869	6	6

\*This reflects data entry as of 2/28/23.

<sup>a</sup>Includes both answered and unanswered cases.

## City Courts Outside New York City

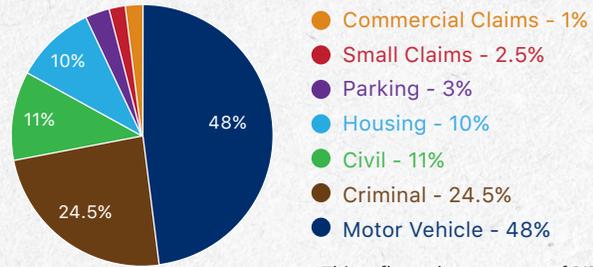
City Courts arraign felonies and handle misdemeanor and lesser offenses, as well as civil lawsuits involving claims up to \$15,000. City Courts also have small claims parts for the informal disposition of matters involving claims up to \$5,000 and/or housing parts to handle landlord-tenant matters and housing violations.

## District Courts

District Courts, located in Nassau County and the five western towns of Suffolk County, arraign felonies and handle misdemeanors and lesser offenses as well as civil lawsuits involving claims up to \$15,000.

In 2022, there were a total of 578,575 filings and 616,467 dispositions in the City and District Courts FIGURE D shows filings by case type; TABLE 11 contains a breakdown of filings by location and case type.

**Figure D: City & District Filings by Case Type - 2022\***



\*This reflects data entry as of 2/28/23.

**Table 11: City and District Courts: Filings by Case Type - 2022\***

Total Filings: 578,575

Location	Criminal	MV	Parking	Civil	Small Claims	L&T	Commercial
<b>Total</b>	<b>141,781</b>	<b>278,309</b>	<b>17,882</b>	<b>63,476</b>	<b>13,523</b>	<b>59,019</b>	<b>4,585</b>
Albany	3,869	15,645	105	1,463	417	2,850	86
Amsterdam	775	1,941	59	298	86	262	23
Auburn	1,363	2,603	227	258	109	474	23
Batavia	760	1,177	42	142	61	165	40
Beacon	255	1,133	67	97	36	109	23
Binghamton	2,421	3,652	2	655	245	1,023	59
Buffalo	6,844	3,999	14	2,239	1,199	8,758	409
Canandaigua	327	2,675	13	155	59	114	4
Cohoes	701	1,642	7	140	48	465	3
Corning	507	616	5	201	36	87	2
Cortland	1,174	2,648	0	161	66	299	45
Dunkirk	714	1,192	4	69	63	136	18
Elmira	1,663	1,482	5	636	102	605	16
Fulton	812	1,638	1	115	43	190	40
Geneva	386	1,176	54	77	40	116	1
Glen Cove	474	3,111	2,410	17	24	217	10
Glens Falls	687	1,858	33	305	53	175	16
Gloversville	567	641	4	278	53	225	11
Hornell	460	1,063	0	101	28	116	1
Hudson	462	1,060	4	129	46	42	65
Ithaca	1,747	1,016	4	102	106	152	13
Jamestown	2,825	2,628	669	344	107	435	43
Johnstown	203	566	3	101	30	50	20
Kingston	1,169	3,522	4	242	126	277	19
Lackawanna	818	7,437	110	161	135	328	52
Little Falls	172	396	2	97	99	37	30
Lockport	900	1,435	43	402	169	295	43
Long Beach	2,151	2,070	8,547	49	53	120	1
Mechanicville	409	848	1	94	49	89	17
Middletown	1,431	4,775	303	526	135	299	41

\*This reflects data entry as of 2/28/23.

**Table 11: City and District Courts: Filings by Case Type - 2022\*** Total Filings: 578,575

Location	Criminal	MV	Parking	Civil	Small Claims	L&T	Commercial
<b>Total</b>	<b>141,781</b>	<b>278,309</b>	<b>17,882</b>	<b>63,476</b>	<b>13,523</b>	<b>59,019</b>	<b>4,585</b>
Mount Vernon	1,854	4,303	47	220	145	1,625	7
New Rochelle	1,735	7,522	91	950	178	885	38
Newburgh	1,399	5,740	43	345	160	788	28
Niagara Falls	2,192	5,973	1,305	658	183	1,465	20
North Tonawanda	1,096	8,432	10	190	73	149	28
Norwich	451	502	5	123	43	95	40
Ogdensburg	499	641	0	98	123	101	104
Olean	781	864	4	95	64	173	32
Oneida	1,082	2,419	15	251	43	91	26
Oneonta	420	1,002	5	61	59	56	18
Oswego	1,306	2,440	37	181	114	163	15
Peekskill	1,342	4,670	32	112	113	168	10
Plattsburgh	690	1,374	10	134	121	158	30
Port Jervis	642	1,845	0	109	35	145	10
Poughkeepsie	867	1,591	888	396	253	1,118	21
Rensselaer	195	863	4	161	49	122	9
Rochester	5,709	3,930	26	1,277	1,257	6,587	339
Rome	2,105	7,432	19	422	112	540	9
Rye	289	4,224	14	22	51	24	17
Salamanca	592	960	7	44	49	85	5
Saratoga Springs	1,037	4,115	506	152	117	460	68
Schenectady	2,480	5,395	103	720	268	1,752	57
Sherrill	41	126	0	30	17	7	3
Syracuse	6,602	10,527	15	1,581	599	3,623	83
Tonawanda	498	3,340	80	316	98	88	64
Troy	1,567	5,437	8	670	181	2,277	28
Utica	2,975	5,011	5	733	250	1,261	129
Watertown	1,401	2,702	4	393	138	399	59
Watervliet	682	5,131	5	150	54	308	3
White Plains	1,872	9,380	1,330	124	176	336	88
Yonkers	3,845	9,783	76	720	420	3,448	183
Nassau District	24,285	32,253	158	11,339	1,882	4,413	1,103
Suffolk District	32,204	42,737	288	31,045	2,275	7,599	737

\*This reflects data entry as of 2/28/23.

### Justice Courts

Town and Village Justice Courts handle misdemeanors and lesser offenses as well as civil lawsuits involving claims up to \$3,000 (including small claims cases). While most of cases handled by these courts are minor traffic offenses, drunk-driving cases and zoning violations, town and village Justices also arraign felonies and handle misdemeanors. There are approximately 1,277 Justice Courts and 2,200 Town and Village Justices.

# Office of Court Administration

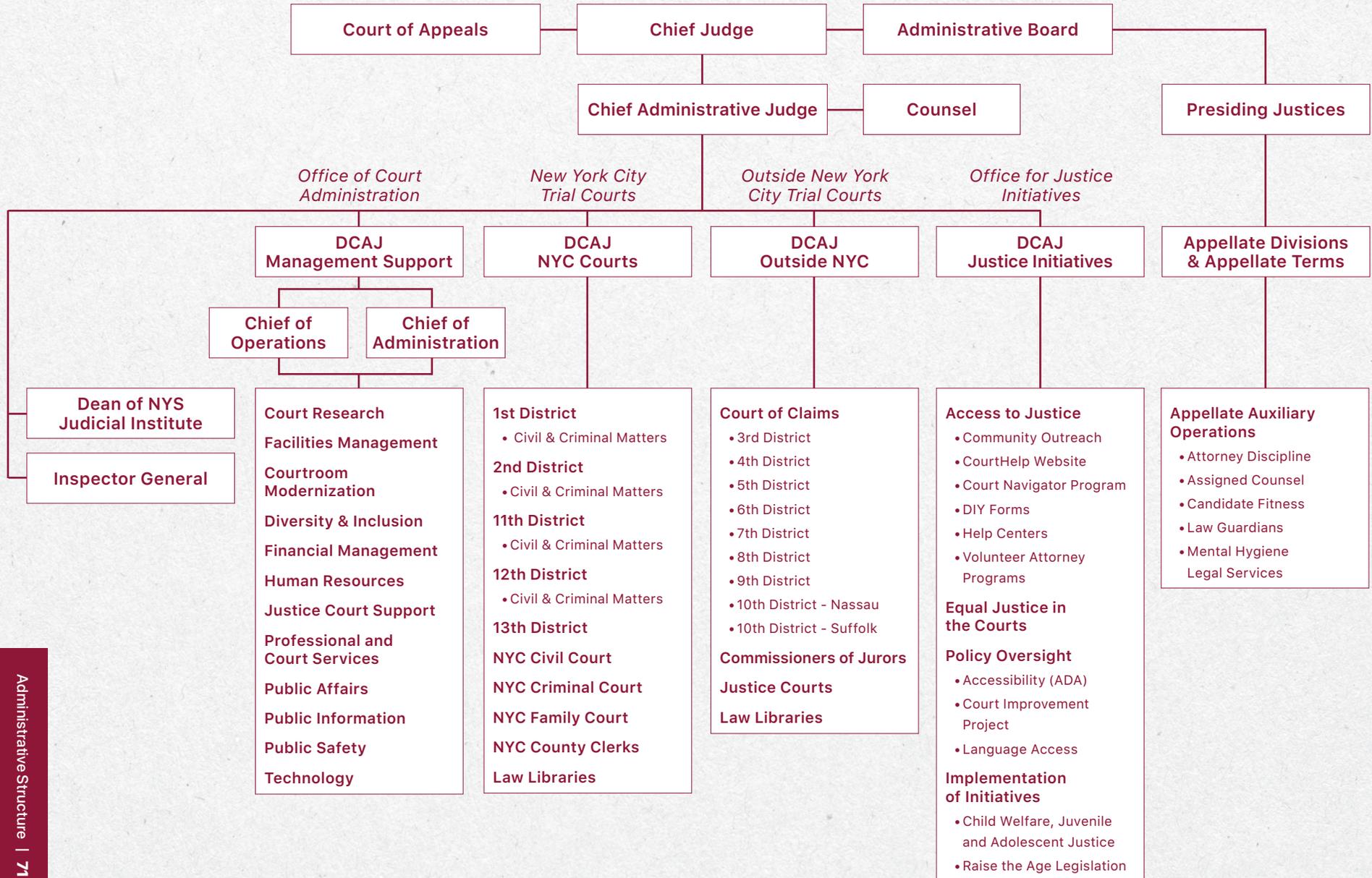
The New York State Unified Court System is administered by the Office of Court Administration (OCA) under the authority of the Chief Judge and Chief Administrative Judge. OCA provides financial management, technology, public safety, personnel management and other essential services to support day-to-day court operations. OCA is comprised of the following divisions:

- ✔ **Division of Financial Management** prepares the Judiciary budget and formulates and implements fiscal policies.
- ✔ **Counsel's Office**, the law department for OCA, represents or coordinates legal representation of the court system, prepares the legislative program, drafts administrative and procedural rules for court operations, negotiates contracts, and advises judges and nonjudicial employees on ethical obligations.
- ✔ **Inspector General's Office** is responsible for the investigation and elimination of infractions of discipline standards, conflicts of interest and criminal activities on the part of non-judicial employees and individuals or corporations doing business with the courts. It also investigates allegations of work-related bias, enforces rules concerning fiduciary appointments and conducts financial and operational audits.
- ✔ **The Division of Professional and Court Services** provides support and guidance to the trial courts through a wide range of offices and initiatives, including alternative dispute resolution, children's centers, continuing legal education, grants and contracts, language access, legal information, parent education and awareness, production of the court record, records management, and trial court support. It also provides professional support for Americans with Disabilities Act initiatives and the guardianship assistance network.
- ✔ **The Division of Human Resources** is charged with providing support services to the court system for personnel administration; benefits administration; labor relations; peace officer training; career services and professional development and equal employment opportunity policies. Human Resources professionals provide outreach and consultation to judges, court administrators, court personnel, union representatives and members of the public. The Division's activities are primarily designed to support the court system's workforce in all aspects of employment.
- ✔ **Division of Technology and Court Research** provides hardware, software, programming, Internet connectivity, cybersecurity, database, help desk, technical education, phone, networking, data, analysis, caseload management and other reports, performance measures and data tools for the New York State Unified Court System.
- ✔ **Office of Public Information** works to provide information about the court system to both internal and external audiences, principally members of the press.
- ✔ **Office of Public Affairs** promotes awareness of the work of the court system among the public, the legal community and court employees.
- ✔ **Department of Public Safety** responsible for developing and implementing uniform policies and procedures to ensure the safety and accessibility of state courthouses.
- ✔ **Office of Court Facilities Planning** provides oversight and guidance to local governments in relation to the construction, renovation and maintenance of state court facilities.
- ✔ **Division of Policy and Planning** develops best practice standards for the courts, reviews ways to streamline court operations and improve case processing and designs legal and operational seminars for court employees.
- ✔ **Office of Diversity and Inclusion** promotes and supports diversity in hiring and promotion in the court system's workforce and promotes practices that ensure a bias-free workplace.
- ✔ **Office of Justice Court Support** provides legal, educational, financial, and operational support to 1,189 town and village courts in the 57 counties outside New York City.



# NEW YORK STATE Unified Court System

## Administrative Structure





Sergeant Ron Daly unlocking the doors of Warren County Court.



**Acknowledgments**

**Mary C. Kornman**  
Director, Public Affairs

**David Handschuh**  
Senior Editor, Internal  
Communications and  
Visual Content

**Nick Inverso**  
Graphic Designer

**John Caher**  
Senior Advisor, Strategic and  
Technical Communications

**Arlene Hackel**  
Deputy Director,  
Public Information

ABRAHAM WING

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